

Knights

Old and New




Alice M. Hoben

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KNIGHTS OLD AND NEW

BY

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PREFACE

In this book the writer attempts to tell some of the stories of King Arthur and his knights in a way that will captivate the imagination and hold the attention of every boy and girl reader in the upper elementary grades.

The stories are based on Malory's *Morte d'Arthur* and the *Mabinogion*, yet in the selection of the stories there has been kept in mind the age of the child and the main purpose for which the book is written.

That purpose has been to aid and encourage character building by giving the child an example, which he can well emulate, of the highest development of individuals. The child is able to see that the fine qualities of the knights are the results of many years of training. A knight, before he became worthy of the name, had to perform duties, many of which the child has to perform in his daily life.

These stories should help to develop a love of truth and courage, show the value of self-control, self-reliance, unselfishness, obedience, and the other qualities necessary for good character. The ideals that are included in both national and local character-training programs, similar to that of the National Child Welfare Association, have been given careful study in the preparation of the book.

In order to test pupil comprehension of the story and

to determine pupil attitudes and reactions that are stimulated by the adventures of these heroes, new-type tests have been included. Following the questions there are games, contests, plays, and other activities that stimulate group social contacts and that give many opportunities for displaying character-building qualities.

Besides its purpose as a character-training reader, this volume has added interest as a recreational reader, and opens up for the children that great source of imaginative literature—the Arthurian legends.

Again, from a teacher's viewpoint, the book is valuable because it offers wide possibilities for correlation with other subjects in the elementary curriculum. There are reproduced in the book six famous paintings and two old carvings. The chapter on armor offers many opportunities for art and manual work. There are three plays in the book that have been written by children in the fifth and sixth grades of the elementary school under the direction of the writer; and they have also been found practical for reproduction purposes. Many suggestions for written English work are given throughout the book. The suggested activities supply stimulating material for creative work by the pupils.

The author takes pleasure in acknowledging help from the constructive criticisms of the manuscript by Mrs. Miriam Blanton Huber of Teachers College, Columbia University, Miss Margaret Knox of Public School No. 15, New York City, Miss Daisy Simons of the National Child Welfare Association, and Miss E. G. Hague of Public School No. 63, New York City.

A. M. H.

INTRODUCTION

One of the organized movements for character building that is nationwide in scope is the Knighthood of Youth, sponsored by the National Child Welfare Association of New York. In the preparation of this book, *Knights Old and New*, the author has given careful consideration to the Knighthood program and has included text material and activities that make the volume especially useful for the pupils in schools that have adopted the program, as well as in schools that are following out the suggestions of a local course of study in character building.

The Knighthood of Youth is an organization for character training which had its beginning five years ago. School principals, teachers, welfare workers and parents were invited to help construct and criticize its procedure. A number of educators, social workers, psychiatrists, business men and others became interested in working out and perfecting the program. Suggestions by Dr. Hugh Hartshorne and Dr. Frank May in their studies have been helpful. The plan is constantly being adapted to changing needs and conditions.

As arranged for schools the Knighthood program is a classroom affair, and is intended for pupils of the fourth to the sixth grade inclusive. Differing charts for each term according to different grades are used. Each chart contains a set of exercises relating to fundamentals

of character development. The exercises are in question form, and children record their answers by checking their charts daily. The Knighthood method eliminates, as far as possible, any temptation towards false checking of the charts. It tends to develop in children the spirit and practice of service and encourages them to draw their own moral conclusions.

In class the teacher tells the children about old-time chivalry and brings out its high ideals, explains about the titles to be won, and calls upon the children to train as Knights. The pupils organize as a Knighthood Circle and choose a motto, and their names are entered on an illuminated Wall Register. At an installation ceremony, each member is given an enrollment "Page" button, a chart and a Message to Members, also a Message to Parents to take home.

To these Knighthood circles, the teacher assigns various responsibilities for service in and around the school building, such as: to one circle, the responsibility for maintaining fair play on the school grounds; to another, for maintaining neatness in the classroom; to another, the oversight of marching, and other services of like nature which solve the problem of discipline for the schoolroom teacher.

The story of King Arthur and his knights as told by Miss Alice M. Hoben in this book, will assist teachers in enrolling children in Knighthood and will guide the children in playing this intensely interesting game.

Knighthood teachings and activities may be correlated with the regular work of the school. In history, English, civics and other studies, opportunities may be found for impressing ideas of true chivalry and unselfish service.

Classes in art may design emblems and insignia; sewing classes may make costumes and banners; and manual-training classes may fashion regalia and other equipment. While the program best adapts itself to school life, its duties relate to the whole waking life of the child, in home, school, playground, and on the street, and it is therefore adapted to the use of the parents in the home.

Knighthood ceremonies, rituals, plays and pageants in assembly, or on national holidays, or at commencement, contribute to the central purpose of Knighthood, which is *to form character through self-direction and the practice of habits of self-control and unselfishness.*

Character education, either good or bad, is going on all the time, and it is the privilege and inspiration of those who have the control of our future citizens to do everything possible to create moral and spiritual values in the lives of these children.

JOHN H. FINLEY

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From a painting by George Frederick Watts. Courtesy of Brown Robertson Co.

SIR GALAHAD.

KNIGHTS OLD AND NEW

CHAPTER I

ARTHUR BECOMES KING

Over fifteen centuries ago Britain had a very brave King called Uther Pendragon. This King was guided by a very wise magician by the name of Merlin. Merlin was so powerful that he could change his form whenever he wished. He could become an old man, a young maid, a bird or an animal, or even make himself so he could not be seen.

King Uther had a son whom he named Arthur. Shortly after Arthur was born, Merlin demanded that the baby should be given to him for safe-keeping. It was well that King Uther gave the baby to the care of Merlin, because soon afterwards Uther died. Now the nobles and barons of Britain were not willing to be ruled by a tiny baby. Each one tried to make the others obey him. There was much fighting and misery in the land, and the poor

people suffered greatly because there was no one to help them.

Merlin gave the baby Arthur to a good knight named Sir Ector. Sir Ector had one



KING UTHER GIVES THE BABY ARTHUR TO MERLIN.

son, Kay. Arthur and Kay played together and thought they were brothers.

Years passed, and Arthur grew to be a young man. When he had nearly completed his knightly training, Merlin went to the Archbishop of Canterbury and asked him to call

together in London at Christmas time all the important men of Britain.

“I want all the men here together,” said Merlin, “for a wonderful thing is about to happen. We are to know who is the rightful King of this land!”

The Archbishop gladly sent word to all the barons and knights to come to London to keep the feast and to pray for peace.

From far and wide the people came to London for the Christmas services. They all attended the service held in the great cathedral. When they were leaving after the service, they were very much surprised to see in the courtyard of the cathedral a high stone into which was thrust a sword. On the stone was written these words: “Whoso can draw forth this sword is the rightful King of Britain.”

Everybody wanted to try at once. Each person was sure he could easily pull out the sword. There was much quarreling and confusion among the knights, the nobles, and the barons.

Then the Archbishop formed a plan whereby each should take his turn, the greatest baron and the poorest knight.



From an old carving on ivory. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

THE KNIGHTS DISPLAY THEIR SKILL.

Each person, as his turn came, stepped up to the stone, put forth all his strength, but failed to move the sword. The Archbishop then knew the King was not among these. He and Merlin therefore decided to send messengers throughout all the land telling the people to meet again at Easter in London. At that time each knight was to have an opportunity to display his knightly powers and try once more to pull the sword from the stone and thus become King of Britain. In the meantime the stone and sword were to be guarded.

When Sir Ector heard the news, he decided to take his son Sir Kay, who had just been made a knight, and young Arthur to London for the Easter gathering.

The important morning came, and Arthur and Sir Kay mounted their horses and set out for the field where the knights were to display their skill. As they rode along together, Sir Kay discovered that in his hurry and excitement he had left his sword at the castle where they were staying. When Sir Kay told his companion this, Arthur quickly said, "I will go and get it for you."

Arthur turned back, but when he reached

the house where they were staying, he found it locked up, for all had gone to the field where the meet was being held.

Arthur did not know what to do. Suddenly he remembered that he had seen a sword thrust in a stone in the churchyard. He thought he might be able to get that for his brother. He made great haste and soon reached the cathedral. The guards had left the churchyard and gone to see the meet.

Arthur jumped from his horse, grasped the hilt of the sword, and easily drew it from the stone. Then, mounting his horse, he carried the sword to Sir Kay.

When Arthur handed him the sword, Sir Kay at once recognized it as the famous sword about which all were talking. In great joy he ran to his father and said, "Oh, father here is the sword, I must be King of Britain."

His father asked him how he got the sword. Sir Kay replied that he had left his own sword at home and that Arthur had gone back for it and had brought him this one.

Sir Ector then knew that Arthur was to be King of Britain. When he saw the youth, he bowed low before him and said, "I know you



ARTHUR DRAWS THE SWORD FROM THE STONE.

are my King, and I give you my homage." Sir Kay did the same as his father, and then the three set off to find the Archbishop.

When they told him what had happened, the Archbishop called the people together in front of the great stone in the cathedral courtyard.

When the crowd had gathered and had become quiet, the Archbishop commanded Arthur to put the sword back in the stone and then draw it forth in the presence of all. Arthur did as he was commanded and with no effort drew out the sword the second time.

But the barons would not believe and said, "Bah, if a youth can do that, we know men can!"

So the Archbishop again commanded that the sword be put back in the stone, and each man, baron, and knight, was given a chance to draw out the sword. But not one could move it.

Arthur stepped up to the stone again and for the third time easily drew out the sword. Then the people believed that Arthur was their true King. They shouted with great joy, "Arthur is King! We want Arthur for our King!"

The rich barons and nobles were not pleased, but they had to kneel before Arthur while the

Archbishop proclaimed him their ruler. The people swore to be true to him. Arthur became a very wise King. To all his people he gave justice and tried to right the wrongs of those people who had been harmed. He made Sir Kay, whom he loved as a brother, chief of his household, and to Sir Ector, who had cared for him, he gave much property.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Each chapter of this book is divided into two parts. The first part tells the stories of King Arthur and his knights, or the knights of old. The second part entitled "Knights in Training" is addressed directly to you who are reading the stories. *You* are the New Knights in Training for good and useful citizenship.

Choose the word that best completes each sentence given below.

- thoughtless
1. Arthur showed that he was careful when he
generous
went back for Sir Kay's sword.
- Rich
2. All men tried to pull out the sword from the stone.
Poor
3. Merlin gave the baby for safe-keeping to
Sir Ector.
Sir Kay.
the Archbishop.
- friend
4. Arthur thought Sir Kay his companion.
brother.

honest

5. Sir Kay was polite when he told his father how obedient he obtained the sword.

Merlin.

6. The sword belonged to Sir Kay.

Arthur.

one

7. Arthur pulled out the sword two times.

three

careless

8. Arthur was a modest king throughout his reign.

just

Form a club and choose a name such as *Modern Knights of King Arthur* with a motto *In Quest of Character* or any other name and motto that you like.

Tell an event from this story that shows that Sir Kay perhaps was tempted not to tell the truth, but which proves he was truthful.

Mention an event from the story that shows Arthur as ready to help others.

Mention an event from this story that shows Arthur as having self-reliance.

Think of three reasons why Arthur would make a better King than Sir Kay.

This story can be easily made into a play.

Divide into three groups. Have two pupils prepare and produce the scene between Sir Kay and Arthur on their way to the field. Have three pupils

prepare and produce the scene between Arthur, Sir Kay, and Sir Ector after Arthur has obtained the sword. Have others prepare the scene at the church.

Which group had the best play?

In giving these little plays, screens with painted scenery can be used for the background.

In the first scene, that between Sir Kay and Arthur on their way to the meet, the screen may show two horses. Arthur and Sir Kay stand in front of it.

ARTHUR [*anxiously, to Sir Kay*]. Why, what has happened? Why do you stop?

SIR KAY. O, Arthur, what shall I do? I have left my sword at the house. I know I shall be late if I go back for it.

ARTHUR. I shall be glad to go back and get it for you, Sir Kay.

SIR KAY. Thank you, Arthur, that is very kind of you. But you will be late.

ARTHUR. That's all right. I will not be very late. You ride on, and I will meet you just inside the gate with your sword.

[CURTAIN]

In your English period you may have a chance to write the other plays.

CHAPTER II

TRAINING FOR A KNIGHT

One day King Arthur called his friends and companions around him, and they formed themselves into a league or club called Knights of the Round Table.

These knights were very brave, honest, and kind men. They were great fighters for they had to protect their homes and country from many enemies. Yet they were ever courteous and kind to women and children. In their suits of armor which they kept always shining and bright the knights of King Arthur looked very splendid.

You can find out where King Arthur and his knights lived by looking at the map of Great Britain.

Do you see a small country on your left marked Wales? The southern part of that country is where King Arthur ruled.

King Arthur probably held court at many places, but Camelot near Winchester, and



RUINS OF TINTAGEL CASTLE.

Caerleon, now called Cardiff, were his favorite homes.

The ruins of Tintagel Castle where King Arthur is said often to have visited can still be seen in Cornwall.

To-day the royal rooms of this castle do not look much the way they did in King Arthur's time. Now the castle is covered with moss and ivy, and through the empty rooms of the ruins the sound of the sea dashing against the rocks echoes dismally.

But in King Arthur's time you could hear the bursts of merry laughter and the jingling of spurs as the knights and ladies rode across the land on their black, brown, and white horses on their way to the castle.

The ladies wear beautiful dresses made of velvet or silk and trimmed with ermine fur. They ride horses covered with handsome purple, white, or scarlet cloth. The knights wear helmets and coats of mail made of very fine steel that are laced together with slender gold chains. Can you see them?

As the knights and their ladies near the castle, they must cross the drawbridge. Every castle is protected by a moat or deep trench that is dug around it and usually filled with water. The drawbridge is a small bridge at the entrance to the courtyard that can be raised or lowered over this deep trench. The drawbridge is always lowered for the brave knights and the ladies who belong to King Arthur's court.

When all have passed into the courtyard, the drawbridge is raised so that no enemy can enter.

In the large hall of King Arthur's castle was

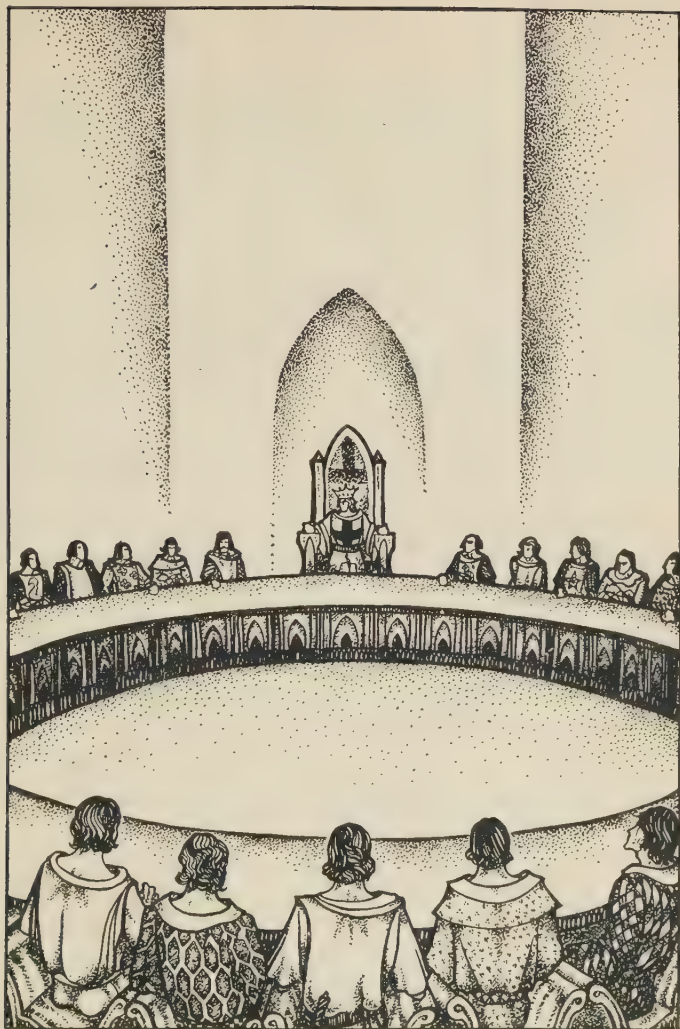


THE DRAWBRIDGE IS ALWAYS LOWERED FOR THE KNIGHTS
AND LADIES.

set up the Round Table, around which gathered the knights.

A knight had good health, great strength, and was a very brave and skillful fighter.

All who became knights took a vow, or made a promise, to give aid to and to help one another; to be ever ready to help the weak; to be always loyal to their King Arthur; to undertake dangerous adventures; and to right wrongs when called upon.



IN THE LARGE HALL OF KING ARTHUR'S CASTLE WAS SET UP
THE ROUND TABLE.

Naturally everybody wanted to be a knight even though the training was hard and long.

At seven years of age the children began their training. They were taught about God, trained to be respectful and obedient, and instructed in the manners or ceremonies of a court. They were called pages, and their duties were to wait upon and serve the knights.

In their free time they learned how to dance and play upon the harp, hunt, fish, ride horseback, wrestle, and tilt or practice with their spears.

When he was fourteen years old, the page became an esquire and began harder tasks. He now had to be able, while wearing heavy armor, to jump lightly from his horse and to run and jump over walls and ditches.

The esquire learned to wrestle and to use the battle-axe and grew to be a skillful horseman. After seven more years of severe training, the esquire became a knight. He was then usually twenty-one years of age.

It was a solemn and important event when an esquire became a knight. He generally spent a day and night in prayer. Then early the next morning he bathed himself and dressed in



From a painting by John Pettie. Courtesy of Brown Robertson Co.

THE ESQUIRE PREPARING FOR THE KNIGHTHOOD.

new white clothes. He looked very handsome in his white satin vest trimmed with gold. He wore a bright, shining leather collar also. These clothes were worn over his suit of armor.

The esquire was then taken to the church, and, after a short ceremony, he promised to be brave, loyal, generous, just, and gentle; to fight always for God and the right; to make right the wrongs of widows and orphans. The officer of the church after blessing the sword of the esquire, hung it about his neck. Then he was given his spear, helmet, shield, and spurs.

The Prince or King who gave him the honor of knighthood touched him on his neck with the flat edge of his sword saying, "In the name of God, St. Michael, and St. George, I make thee knight. Be brave, respectful, and loyal."

Now wouldn't you like to be a knight and start in your training like the knights of old?

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

As you read these stories of the Round Table, you will be able to give plays, plan a tournament, and do other things that will help you find out if you are in training for good conduct and good deeds like the knights of old.

At your first club meeting discuss the qualities of a good knight. These are some of the qualities of a good knight.

courtesy	honesty	unselfishness	sportsmanship
responsibility	industry	courage	justice
promptness	cheerfulness	coöperation	service
kindness	good health	self-control	thrift
obedience to	loyalty	friendliness	neatness
authority	independence	sympathy	reverence

Draw up a program or chart with the qualities in which you would first like to train. The chart may have only one or two qualities on it, but if you faithfully keep those two or three, you have started your training.

Would you like to be a knight and keep a Knighthood of Youth chart to show your good deeds?

The following questions might help you in your talk.

1. Why do you think knights should be faithful?
2. Why do you think knights should finish all the work they start out to do?
3. Why must knights be strong?
4. Why must knights be able to do their work without being reminded?
5. Why must knights train for good conduct?

Be thinking what boy will make a good King Arthur or leader. Remember he must have as many as possible of the qualities given above.

Think of and write out a program that you would like to follow when you become a knight in training and join your club.

Read again about the knighting of the esquire. Make your program or ceremony something like that.

At the next meeting of your club be ready to read the ceremony to the other members and, if there are several who have written ceremonies, select the best one.

CHAPTER III

ARTHUR AND THE ROUND TABLE

All the brave men and fair ladies of the land came to London when Arthur was crowned. The lords and nobles wore beautiful robes of velvet and ermine with gold and jewels on their breastplates. The ladies wore beautiful dresses of purple, scarlet, gold, blue, and white and had many wonderful jewels. The people all were happy and merry.

Arthur was dressed in a plain white robe and was very serious. He did not think about the beauty and show of wealth. He was thinking about the oath he was to take. He bowed his head while the Archbishop placed upon it the gold crown covered with jewels. Then he stood up very straight before the great crowd and vowed he would be a good King and give justice to his people.

Then all his people uncovered their heads and vowed to serve and obey him.



THE ARCHBISHOP PLACED THE GOLD CROWN UPON HIS HEAD.

After Arthur was crowned, he tried to right all the wrongs that had been done since his father's death. He gave back the lands and money that had been taken from widows and orphans and would not allow unkind deeds to be done to any of his subjects.

Arthur had to do battle with many knights and kings to keep his power. Many persons had unlawful power and did not want to give it up. With the help of Merlin and all his good friends, however, King Arthur forced his enemies to admit his power over them.

When peace was restored in the land, Arthur decided to establish his court and the Order of the Round Table. He chose a high hill in Camelot as the best place and it is said Merlin built his palace for him.

The main part of the castle was a great assembly hall built of white marble. The outer walls of the castle were covered with rows of beautiful sculptures.

Merlin by means of these rows of sculpture wanted to show the people that under the wise and good King's rule people would become better. To do this he had the first row of the carved drawings show beasts slaying men. The

second row pictured men slaying beasts. The third row showed pictures of knights as good peaceful men, and the fourth row showed men growing wings. Above all this was a winged statue with the face of Arthur. In one row of sculpture was the idea that the evil in men was greater than the good. Which row do you think that is?

Another row meant that men were beginning to conquer the evil in themselves. Which row is that?

Still another row meant the men had conquered the evil. Which row is that?

Another row meant that under the good King's influence men would grow to be nearly as perfect as angels. Of course you know that is the last row.

On the inner walls of the assembly room were hung beautiful tapestries which had been woven by the ladies for Arthur's new palace.

The two wings of the palace contained the dining room, kitchen, and living apartments of all the members of the court who lived with the King.

The dining room was very beautiful. The walls were hung with cloths of scarlet and

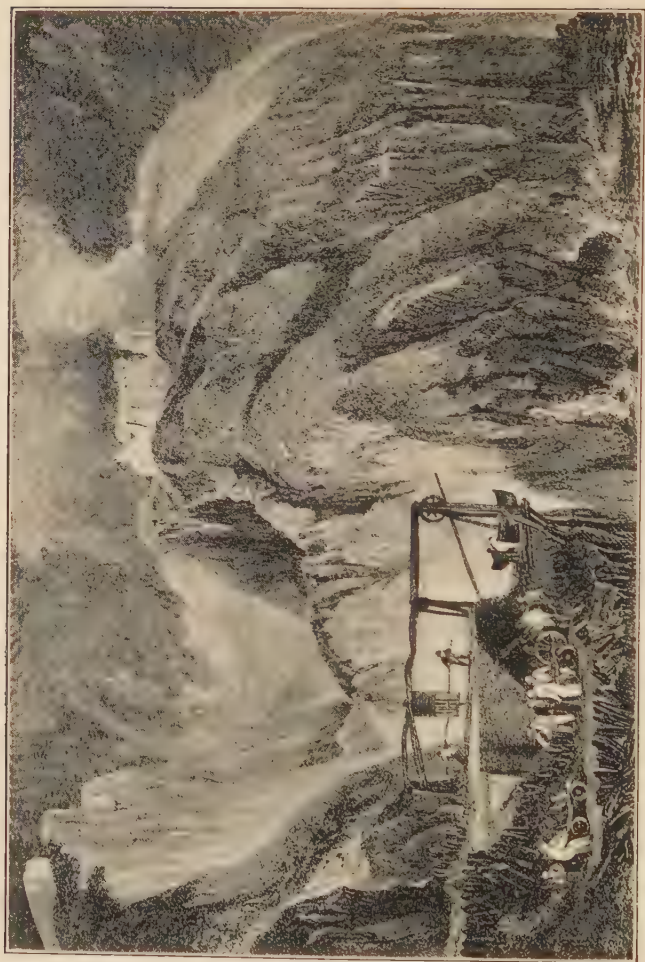
gold. The fireplace had four bronze pillars to support it. The long tables made of beautiful oak were in the middle of the room.

In the great kitchen was a fireplace so large that an ox could be roasted whole. Some of the kettles were so large that whole pigs could be boiled in them.

Supper or dinner, the most important meal of the day, lasted from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. The cooks and the little kitchen boys who washed the pots and pans and the pages and attendants who carried the food to the dining hall were all happy to serve King Arthur and his guests. They thought it a real honor to be at the court.

Arthur had one hundred and fifty knights, all members of his Round Table. They were knights who had proved themselves brave in battle and were loyal to the King. Each had vowed to serve God and mankind.

It was a wonderful event when the knights took their places at the Round Table to discuss the problems with the King. The Archbishop of Canterbury blessed them. One by one the knights walked up to Arthur who, looking very handsome, stood at the head of the as-



From a painting by J. M. W. Turner. Courtesy of D. Appleton & Co.

TINTAGEL CASTLE.

sembly hall. He wore his gold crown on his golden yellow head. His blue eyes were grave and kind. He was dressed in a magnificent red robe with golden dragons embroidered upon it.

Each knight before the meeting promised him to be faithful and loyal. Next the knight repeated his vows. He would do no false, mean, or cruel deed. He would show mercy and would never fight for a wrong cause or for money.

Every Easter the knights promised to come together and repeat these vows.

The ladies of King Arthur's court helped to train the pages and esquires to be gentle, courteous, and unselfish. They sat with King Arthur and the knights in the evening, singing or playing upon harps or listening to the stories of brave deeds that were told. In the daytime they listened to the wise teachings of the Archbishop or Merlin and embroidered the beautiful hangings and cushions.

Some of the loyal and brave knights who sat at the Round Table were Sir Bedevere, Sir Lancelot, Sir Tristram, Sir Geraint, Sir Gareth, Sir Kay, Sir Galahad, Sir Balin, Sir Ivaine, and Sir Perceval.

Sir Bedevere was the first knight ever

knighted by King Arthur, and Sir Lancelot was the greatest.

We shall learn more about these knights later.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Give the best answers you can for these questions:

1. Why were the people all happy when Arthur was crowned?
2. Why was Arthur so sober and serious?
3. What vows or promises did he make?
4. What vows or promises did the knights make to him?
5. What did the rows of sculpture on the outer walls of King Arthur's castle mean?
6. Who built the castle?
7. Describe the dining room.
8. Describe the kitchen.
9. How many knights had Arthur?
10. How was he dressed when he knighted the knights?
11. Who was first made a knight?

At your club meeting choose one of your members as King Arthur.

If you have carefully prepared your costumes and practiced the ceremony of knighting, you can make this chapter into a play.

Boys and girls who like to draw can show what they imagined the outer walls of the castle looked like.

Boys and girls who like to write can prepare a composition telling what they think a day spent at King Arthur's court would be like.

Young poets should be able to compose some delightful verses about the castle or about King Arthur and his knights.

CHAPTER IV

A KNIGHT'S ARMOR

Perhaps you would like to know how the knights of King Arthur's court dressed. All of them wore mail armor. Mail armor was of



PLATE OR SCALE MAIL AND CHAIN MAIL ARMOR.

two kinds: plate or scale mail, and chain mail.

You can see from the picture that chain mail looks like a frock and is bound around the

waist by a sash. At first knights wore only this mail around the body, but later, as they had more enemies to conquer, they added gloves as a protection for the hands; hose or stockings of



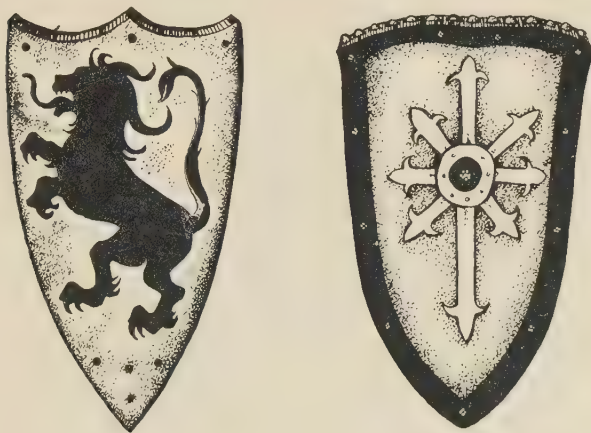
THE HAUBERK WAS A GOOD PROTECTION AGAINST A SWORD.

mail for the legs; and a hood which was drawn over the head.

The hauberk was a complete covering of double chain mail. This chain mail was made up of a number of iron links, each link having the other links fastened to it so that it made a kind of network.

The hauberk was a good protection against

a sword. But a lance, that is a long piece of wood with a very sharp steel point, could easily pierce the knight wearing the hauberk. Why? To guard against the lance the knights wore



SHIELDS.

under their chain mail a thick and well-padded little vest or doublet called a breastplate.

Shields were usually made of wood with an outside covering of leather or some other tough material. Then, to protect them from being cut or hacked by a sharp sword, they were bound by a hoop of metal.

The helmet was made up of two parts; the part that covered the head which was made

stronger on the inside by several hoops of iron, and the visor which could be raised or put down when the knight pleased. The visor covered the face and was like a grating through which the knight could see.



HELMETS.

The knights often wore plumes or bright feathers in their helmets.

The knight tied his helmet by several laces to the meshes of his chain mail suit so that it could not fall off or be struck off.

The knight carried a lance or battle-axe and

wore a sword. His horse was also covered with mail.

A number of knights together in their bright shining mail suits and their horses covered with mail must have been a pleasant sight, es-



THE HORSE WAS COVERED WITH MAIL.

pecially to the sad, wronged people that they were going to help.

If a knight jousting with another knight, that meant they fought with their lances, and each tried to knock the other off his horse.

At a tournament all the knights and their



KNIGHTS JOUSTING.

ladies assembled, and then each knight who was jousting told who his lady was. The knights very often wore favors given to them by their ladies. These favors were such things as scarfs, veils, sleeves, bracelets, clasps. The knights wore these favors fastened to their shields, helmets, or armor.

If during the fight any of these gifts were lost or dropped, the ladies would send their knights new ones.

It was against the code of honor of a knight to strike a fallen knight, to wound a horse, or to continue fighting after a knight had raised his visor and asked for mercy.

Boys and girls want to keep the spirit of the ideal knight alive. It is that spirit that makes for honor, generosity, respect, obedience, and helpfulness that we see in our heroes of to-day.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Now that you have read about armor, and studied the pictures of it, make a suit for yourself from cardboard. It may be either plate or chain mail armor. Use your paints and brushes.

Make a shield. Perhaps you can make it during your manual-art period.

Make a helmet. It can easily be made from cardboard. Use your paints and brushes.

Take your costumes to your knighthood meeting. At that meeting plan your knighthood ceremony and talk about the qualities needed by your King Arthur. The boys and girls belonging to the club should know that the honor of knighthood will be given soon to those who are thinking about the training of themselves for knighthood. Those who are faithfully keeping a chart to help them form good habits are making the preparation for knighthood. It will be nice if you have a costume to wear.

Be sure to keep your helmet, suit of mail, and shield. You will need them when you give your King Arthur plays.

CHAPTER V

KING ARTHUR RECEIVES A SWORD FROM THE LADY OF THE LAKE

One day King Arthur broke his sword in a fight with a strange knight. To Merlin who came to help him in his fight, he said, "I cannot go to my court without a sword. I must have another."

"We can easily make that all right," said Merlin. "Follow me and I will take you to a place where you will be given the most wonderful sword in the world."

The King was very tired and in great pain after his long battle with the knight, but he followed Merlin as he led him out of the forest and through the fields until they came to a pretty little lake. The sun was just setting, and it cast its rosy colors over the waters.

While the King was admiring the sunset, suddenly he saw an arm appear out of the water. In the hand was a beautiful sword that shone in the rays of the sun.

“What wonderful and strange thing is this,” said the King, “and what does it mean?”

Merlin answered, “Down in this lake, which is as deep as the mountains are high, is the palace of the Lady of the Lake. She is very powerful and always works for good. She is going to help you, for you need her aid. She has made this beautiful and wonderful sword for you. Go and get it.”

Just then Arthur spied a little boat half hidden in the tall grass that grew on the edge of the lake. As he leaped into the boat, it moved, as if oared by some one unseen, to the middle of the lake, to the place where the arm was holding the sword. Reaching over the side of the little boat, the King took the sword with its scabbard from the hand. Immediately the arm disappeared, and the boat took him back to land.

Arthur eagerly showed the wonderful scabbard and mighty sword to Merlin. The hilt of the sword shone with twinkling gems, such as diamonds, topazes, emeralds, and many other precious jewels. As Arthur was handling the sword, he noticed on the blade strange writing.



REACHING OVER THE SIDE OF THE BOAT, THE KING TOOK
THE SWORD WITH ITS SCABBARD FROM THE HAND.

He asked Merlin to tell him what this writing meant.

"Sire," said Merlin, "on one side of the sword the writing means 'Keep me' and on the other it says 'Throw me away.' "

"That is strange," said Arthur. "What must I do?"

"Keep it," said Merlin. "The time to throw it away has not come. The sword is called Excalibur, and it will always be very useful to you. But look at the scabbard. What do you think of that?"

"A very good cover for so good a sword, I should say," answered King Arthur.

"It is more than that," said Merlin, "for as long as you keep it, no matter how badly wounded you may be you will never bleed to death."

Then was King Arthur very happy and thankful to the Lady of the Lake for such a marvelous gift.

Arthur and Merlin went back to King Arthur's court, and there was great rejoicing among the knights over the safe return of their lord. All greatly admired Excalibur.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

On one side of this page you will find some questions, and on the other side you will find some answers. On a separate sheet of paper match the questions with the answers.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Why did King Arthur need a new sword? | As long as he kept it, he would never bleed to death. |
| 2. Who gave him the sword? | Very happy and thankful to the Lady of the Lake. |
| 3. What was the name of the sword? | On one side "Keep me," on the other "Throw me away." |
| 4. What did it have written on it? | The Lady of the Lake. |
| 5. What was wonderful about the scabbard? | All the lords and ladies of his court. |
| 6. With what was the sword decorated? | Excalibur. |
| 7. How did King Arthur feel about the sword? | He had broken his own in a fight with a strange knight. |
| 8. Who admired it? | Precious jewels. |

Below are given two lists of words, the names of qualities and the names of three persons. Attach to the persons the qualities you think they have from the lists, and tell why you think they have such qualities.

Arthur	skilfulness	duty
	cleverness	earnestness
Merlin	wisdom	friendliness
	courtesy	interest
Lady of the Lake	knowledge	kindness
	zeal	foresight
	enthusiasm	affection
	fearlessness	justice
	unselfishness	

In your club meeting discuss the qualities you think Knights in Training should have. Have the best answers put safely away, and see how you agree with your answers when you have finished reading your book.

Those who like to draw and paint may make a picture of King Arthur receiving his sword. (Do not copy the one in this book.)

PLAN FOR A KNIGHTHOOD PARTY

Choose certain members to form a committee to look after the invitations to the party.

Choose certain others to look after the refreshments.

Choose certain others to look after decorations.

Choose certain others to look after the entertainment or amusement for the party.

Are you going to play games, give a play, or have a contest? Take plenty of time; four or five weeks will not be too long for you to prepare for a good party.

CHAPTER VI

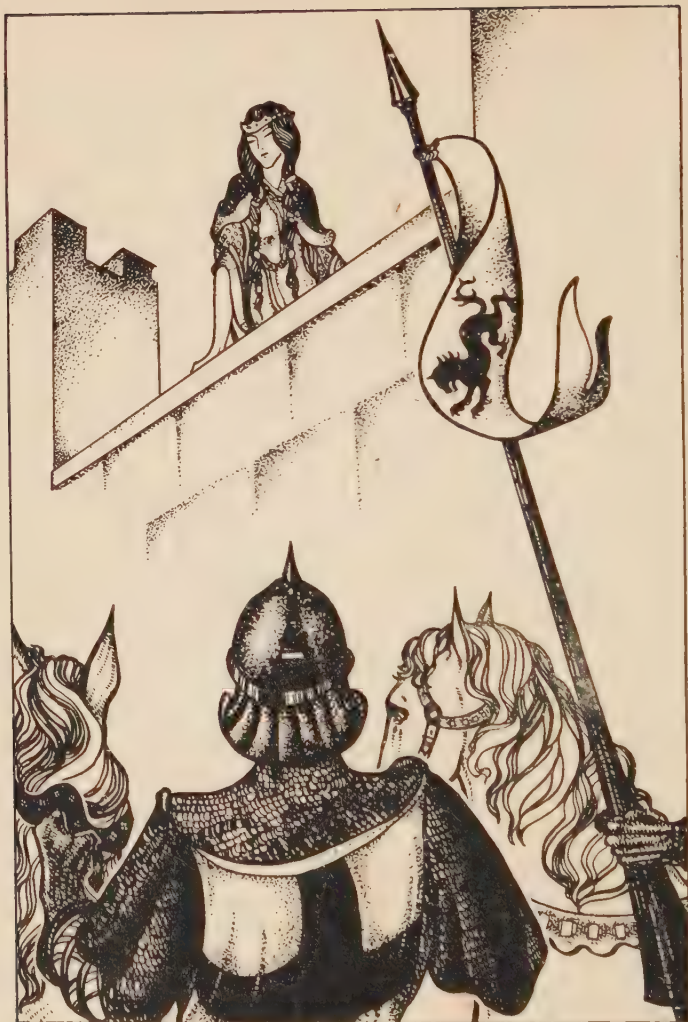
ARTHUR AND GUINEVERE

Shortly after Arthur had established his court, his neighbor King Leodogran asked him for help in a battle. Of course, Arthur and his knights were glad to help him.

As Arthur and his nobles were riding up to the castle of Leodogran, the King's daughter Guinevere, the most beautiful lady in all the land, stood leaning on the castle wall to watch them pass.

She expected King Arthur to have his armor more richly decorated with gold and jewels than any of the other knights. Instead he did not have any decorations, so she could not tell which one was he.

Guinevere made a very beautiful picture as she stood leaning against the wall. Her black hair hung in two long heavy braids over her shoulders and her eyes were large, black, and wistful. So it was natural that when King Ar-



GUINEVERE MADE A VERY BEAUTIFUL PICTURE AS SHE
STOOD LEANING AGAINST THE WALL.

thur saw her, he should fall in love and want to marry her.

He said to himself, "If I win this battle for her father, I shall ask him to give me his daughter, the Princess Guinevere, for my wife."

He and his knights won the battle. When he returned to C amelot, he told his knights and the ladies of his court that he wanted to marry the Princess. They were all glad, for every one who had seen Princess Guinevere declared her to be the most beautiful lady he had ever seen.

Arthur decided to send three good knights to King Leodogran to ask for his daughter Guinevere.

The knights were very happy to go on such an errand for they thought King Leodogran would be very pleased to give his daughter to Arthur. But the King had heard strange stories about Arthur's birth and did not know whether he was born of royal blood or not.

King Leodogran asked the knights to wait for a little while in another room. Then he called his wisest and oldest knight and asked him what he knew of Arthur. "Merlin knows

whose son Arthur is," said the knight, "but I do not."

Then King Leodogran asked the three knights of King Arthur to return to the room and said to them, "Some people say your King is the son of the late King Uther, and others say he is the son of Sir Ector. Do you know whose son he is?"

They told him they did. They said that he was the son of King Uther, but that Sir Ector had brought him up for fear those who were fighting for the throne would kill him.

Still King Leodogran was not sure that it was wise for him to give Princess Guinevere to Arthur, so he asked the knights to wait at his castle awhile longer until he could decide on his answer.

About this time a beautiful Queen with her knights and followers came to pay a visit to King Leodogran. Her name was Queen Bellisent, and later it was discovered that she was a half-sister of King Arthur, the daughter of Arthur's mother by an earlier marriage.

King Leodogran asked her advice, and she answered, "Arthur is very great. All his people love him. The Knights of the Round Table

are bound by vows to be kind, true, merciful, and helpful.”

“Yes, I have heard that,” said the King.

“Also Arthur has wonderful and powerful friends,” continued Queen Bellicent. “Merlin the magician and the Lady of the Lake, who gave him his good sword Excalibur, help him when he needs help most. Do not fear to give your daughter to Arthur for he will be the greatest king the world has ever seen.”

King Leodogran was much cheered by what the Queen had said. As he sat thinking, he fell asleep and dreamed he saw a field covered with mist and smoke and a King was standing in a cloud. Then a voice said, “*This* is not our King, *this* is not the son of Uther.” Then suddenly the mist disappeared and King Arthur stood in the heavens with a crown upon his head.

The King awoke and took this dream as a good sign. He called the three knights and said, “Tell your King I will give him the Princess for his wife.”

The three knights hastened to King Arthur to tell him the good news.

King Arthur and the Princess Guinevere were married by the Archbishop who blessed them and said they would do much good.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

This is a very easy chapter to dramatize.

Here is a play some boys and girls wrote and produced. Would you like to produce it.

ARTHUR AND GUINEVERE

ACT I

[Princess Guinevere and her ladies standing on the castle wall watching Arthur and his knights pass.]

[Ladies and knights greet each other.]

KING ARTHUR *[to the knight nearest him]*. Isn't that a beautiful lady?

KNIGHT. Yes, that is Princess Guinevere, King Leodogran's daughter.

KING ARTHUR. Now I want to win this battle more than ever.

ACT II

[King Arthur's Court at Camelot. He is seated on his throne and surrounded by his knights and ladies.]

KING ARTHUR. It is time that we should have a Queen. Don't you think Princess Guinevere would make a good Queen?

ALL THE KNIGHTS AND LADIES. Yes, we do. She is very beautiful and very good.

KING ARTHUR. I am going to send three of my good knights to King Leodogran and ask him to give his daughter in marriage to me. Of course, that is, if she is



KING ARTHUR AS PLAYED BY A PUPIL.

willing. Sir Bedevere, Sir Ulfius, and Sir Brastias, you go to King Leodogran and ask for Princess Guinevere.

ACT III

[*The Court of King Leodogran. King Leodogran is seated upon his throne. Enter a page.*]

PAGE. King Leodogran, there are three knights from King Arthur's Court who have come from the King with a message to you.

KING LEODOGRAN. Allow them to come in.

[*Page leaves and then brings in the three knights. Knights bow before the King.*]

SIR BEDEVERE. King Leodogran, King Arthur has sent us here to ask you if you will give your daughter, the beautiful Princess Guinevere, to him in marriage.

KING LEODOGRAN. He does me great honor, but I will have to ask my daughter and think about it for a little while. Will you three knights please wait for my answer in the next room?

[*The three knights leave.*]

KING LEODOGRAN [*to page*]. Send my oldest and wisest knight here at once.

[*Page leaves, and an old knight soon enters.*]

OLD KNIGHT [*bowing low*]. My King, you wanted me.

KING LEODOGRAN. I have just talked to three knights of King Arthur. He sent them to ask me to give Guinevere in marriage to him. I do not know who this King Arthur is except that he is a great fighter and helped free me from my enemies. But to give my daughter to him, that is another matter. Do you know who his father was?

OLD KNIGHT [*shaking his head*]. No, my lord, nobody knows who his father was except Merlin.

KING LEODOGRAN. That doesn't help me much. Merlin is not here and I must soon give my answer.

PAGE [*entering*]. King Leodogran, Queen Bellicent with her lords and ladies is arriving at the court to pay you and the Princess a visit.

KING LEODOGRAN. That is good. She may be able to help me out. She may know something about King Arthur. Bid her come in.



QUEEN GUINEVERE AS PLAYED BY A PUPIL.

[Page leaves and comes back followed by Queen Bellisent and a few ladies. The King arises, both bow, and he leads her to a seat beside himself.]

KING LEODOGRAN. I am very glad that you have come to-day. I want your advice. King Arthur has sent three of his knights to ask me to give him Guinevere in marriage. I do not know anything about the history of this King Arthur, do you?

QUEEN BELLICENT. Merlin says he is my half brother, but I do not know. He says King Uther, who married my mother after my father's death, is his father. It is hard to prove, but he is very powerful. He has many friends. The Lady of the Lake has just given him a wonderful sword. I think you would be wise to let Guinevere marry him.

KING LEODOGRAN. What you say is good. But before I give my daughter in marriage, I should be sure.

QUEEN BELLICENT. Yes, I suppose you are right. Think it over. But I am sure you will make no mistake if you give her to him.

QUEEN BELLICENT [*arises*]. I think I will go to my room and rest after my trip.

[*King Leodogran sits thinking. Then his head nods and he is asleep. In a minute or two he jumps to his feet.*]

KING LEODOGRAN. I had a wonderful dream. [*To page who is at the door*] Send for the knights who are waiting in the next room. [*Enter the three knights.*]

KING LEODOGRAN. I had a most wonderful dream about your good King Arthur. I saw a mist and heard a voice and it said, 'This is not the son of King Uther.' Then the mist cleared away, and I saw a vision of your King crowned. So I think he must be King Uther's son. I will give him Princess Guinevere in marriage.

[*The knights look pleased and bow.*]

KNIGHTS. We will take that message back to our King.

THE END

CHAPTER VII

TRISTRAM SAVES THE QUEEN

Do you remember reading in Chapter IV of this book that Tristram was one of the greatest knights of the Round Table?

His father was the good knight Meliadus who ruled over the kingdom of Liones. His mother was the fair Elizabeth, the wife of Meliadus.

There was a wicked enchantress in the kingdom of Liones who hated the King and the Queen. One day before Tristram was born the King was hunting when he saw a deer. He followed it through the forest, not knowing that the wicked enchantress had sent it to lead him far from his men so that he might be taken prisoner by her knights.

When the King did not return home, the Queen, nearly wild with grief, ran away with her maid into the woods to search for him. At last, tired out, she sank down at the foot of a



From a painting by William Dyce. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

TRISTRAM BECOMES A KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE.

great tree. There in the midst of the forest Tristram was born.

As his mother looked at her child, she said, "My poor little son, sad has been your birth. Therefore I shall name you Tristram. I know you will grow to be a brave and strong knight."

Then she gave the baby to her maid, telling her to take good care of him. Soon after this she died.

When Merlin heard that the King Meliadus had been taken a prisoner by the enchantress, he made her free the King. Meliadus returned to his castle, and great was his grief at the loss of his Queen. He mourned for her long and bitterly, and so did all his subjects.

At the end of seven years King Meliadus took another wife. Now when the new Queen had sons of her own, she was very angry at Tristram for she knew that in the days to come he and not her eldest son would become King of Liones.

The more she thought of it, the more she hated him. At last she decided to kill him. She made a pleasant cooling drink into which she put poison and placed it in the room where Tristram always played.

Now the day was very hot, and the Queen's eldest son, the half-brother of Tristram, thought he would like a cooling drink. He drank the poison and immediately died.

The Queen hated Tristram more than ever for she knew it was through him that her own son had died.

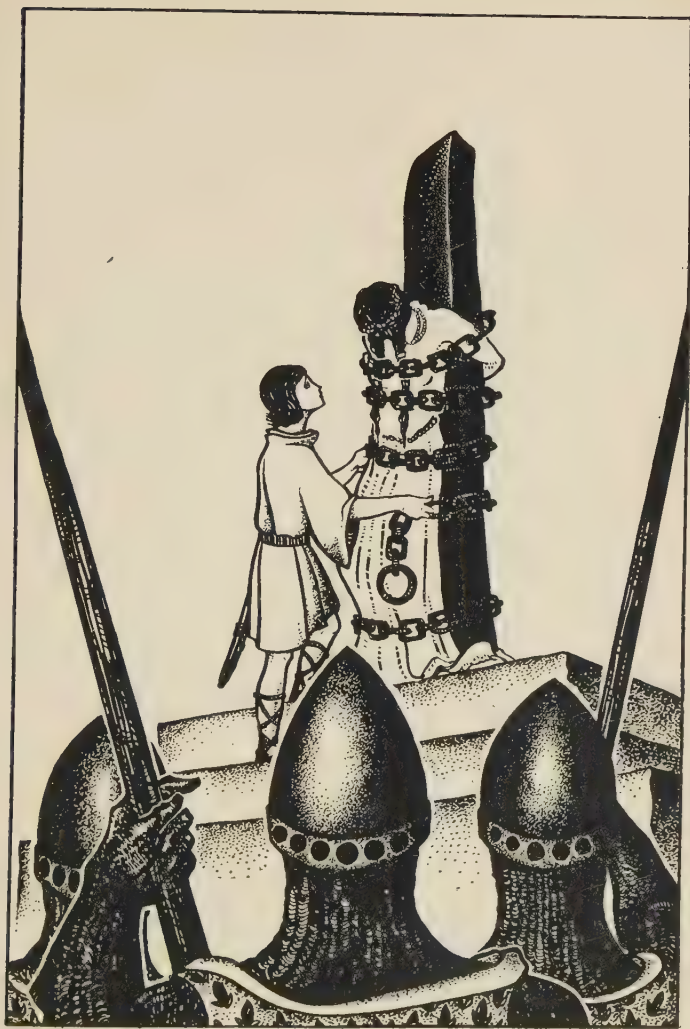
Once again she mixed a poisonous drink and placed it where she thought Tristram would this time be sure to take it. But King Meliadus, returning thirsty from hunting, picked up the cup and would have drunk it, but the Queen, who really loved her husband, cried out, "Do not drink from that glass!"

The King at once knew something was wrong. Seizing the queen, he sternly cried, "Evil woman, tell me this very moment what was in that cup, or I will kill you."

The Queen begged for mercy and told him what she had done.

In his anger the King refused to listen to her plea for forgiveness and ordered that she be burned to death.

The day for the burning of the wicked Queen came. She was led out and bound to the stake in the presence of all the court.



TRISTRAM UNLOOSED THE CHAINS.

When all was ready for the burning, the young Prince Tristram went to his father and, kneeling before him, said he wished the King to grant him a favor.

The King, who loved him very much, asked him what he wanted.

"I want you to set the Queen, my step-mother, free," said Tristram. The King was very much surprised at his request and asked, "Knowing that she would have killed you, don't you hate her?"

"No," said Tristram, "I forgive her."

"I give you her life then," replied the King.

Tristram himself unloosed the chains that bound the Queen and led her back to the castle. From that day onward the Queen loved Tristram and did everything she could for him.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

On a blank piece of paper put the numbers 1 to 10 and after each number write *True* if you think the sentence is true and *False* if you think it is false.

1. Tristram's mother was the wicked Queen of King Meliodas.
2. Tristram means sad.
3. Tristram was born in the woods.
4. The Queen made Tristram a pleasant cooling drink.
5. The Queen poisoned her eldest son.
6. Tristram was generous and forgiving.
7. The King was poisoned by the Queen.
8. The Queen was burned to death.
9. The Queen at last loved Tristram.
10. Tristram was glad that the Queen was going to be burned.

Write a short paragraph of about five or six lines using words that describe the character of Tristram. Read some of the best ones at your club meetings.

What kind of a knight do you think Tristram will be? Later you will find out if your prophecy is true.

How do you compare with Tristram? Would you have done what Tristram did?

Would you have been so forgiving and kind?

Appoint a committee to write a play showing the rescue of the Queen by young Tristram.

Make your own King Arthur book. Put in your best drawings and paintings and any plays that you write.

Have a club book made by all members. Then, if you wish, make a little book of your own.

CHAPTER VIII

GARETH COMES TO CAMELOT

Now Queen Bellicent, the half-sister of King Arthur, had three sons. Gawain and Modred, the two oldest, had already joined the Knights of the Round Table, and Gareth, the youngest, was longing to join them.

His mother, however, would not give her consent for him to go to King Arthur's court. "You are only a boy," she said. "Stay with me a while longer."

So Gareth, who loved his mother very much, stayed for a while. Then one day he came to his mother and said, "Mother, may I tell you something?" "Yes, my son," she answered.

Then Gareth said, "Suppose there was a very tall tree and in that tree a strong eagle had a nest. In that nest was a golden egg and a boy, though poor yet brave, longed and wanted to get that egg. It would bring him wealth and prosperity and happiness. Some one who loved

him and whom he loved very much would not let him try to get it. That person told him he was too young and not strong enough. The boy did not climb and was very unhappy."

His mother answered, "If that person really loved the boy, he would have climbed the tree and given the egg to him."

"That could not be, mother," said Gareth, "for I am the boy and the golden egg is the Order of the Round Table."

His mother grew very sad, for she understood that it was she who was holding him back. She wept bitterly and said, "Gawain and Modred have left me. You are all I have. Do not leave me, Gareth. You can hunt the deer and the fox, and, when you are older, I shall find you a beautiful wife, and we shall all live together and be happy until I die. Then will I never be lonely."

Gareth slowly shook his head, "Mother, I do not want a wife until I have become a worthy and brave knight. I want to go to King Arthur's court and be with my good uncle, the King."

Then his mother tried to think of a plan whereby she might keep Gareth at home and

said, "If I let you go, my son, you must make me a promise to prove your love for me."

"What is your promise? I will make a hundred if you will let me go," said Gareth joyously.

"You must go in disguise to Arthur's court and become a kitchen boy for a whole year washing the pots and pans. You must tell no one you are the son of a Queen."

Gareth was very thoughtful for a little while. He had hoped to join the knights at once and do his share of brave deeds. His mother thought he would refuse to go under these conditions.

Then, looking straight into his mother's eyes, he said, "Yes, mother, I will go. If I have to be a kitchen boy, I can still be noble in my heart and thoughts. I can see the noble knights of King Arthur, Tristram, Lancelot, and the others and watch the tournaments."

His mother was very sad and disappointed, yet proud that he was willing to undergo such hardships to get the thing he wanted.

Gareth left home accompanied by two faithful servants. All three were dressed like plowmen. It was Easter time, the birds were sing-



GARETH COMES TO CAMELOT.

ing, and the young grass was a bright green. As they neared Camelot they could see in the distance the towers of the castle gleaming like silver in the sunlight.

When they reached the gate of the city, an old man with a long gray beard came out to greet them. He led them past the gardens, groves, and houses of Camelot to Arthur's great palace on the hill.

The King was hearing the pleas of his people when Gareth entered. He sat on a throne made of gold, ivory, and ebony. On the arms and back of the throne were carved great dragons. Arthur wore his gold crown on his beautiful yellow hair.

A widow came forward and cried to Arthur, "Oh, good King Arthur, hear me. Your father King Uther took away a field from my husband who is now dead. Your father promised us gold, but he gave us none nor did he give us back our field."

Then Arthur asked, "What would you rather have, woman, the field or the gold?"

The woman answered, "The field."

Arthur said, "You may have your field again, and in addition I will give you three

times the value of your field in gold to pay you for the years King Uther held it."

Then Gareth knew that the King was indeed just.

There were many other things for the King to decide, and Gareth had to wait a long time before being heard.

When Arthur at last had finished, Gareth came slowly forward and said, "My King, you see my poor clothes. May I serve in your kitchen for twelve months without telling my name, and then after that I will fight?"

"You are a good-looking lad," said Arthur, "and I expected more of you than that, but I will put you under the care of Sir Kay who is the manager of the household."

Now Sir Kay was harsh to those whom he did not like, and he scorned Gareth for wanting to serve in the kitchen when he might have gone in training for knighthood. "Imagine," said he, "asking for food and drink when he might have asked for a horse and armor."

Sir Lancelot, who was standing near-by, remarked, "This youth must have his reasons for asking what he did. I believe he is of noble birth. Look at his face, he has honest eyes and

beautiful hands. Sir Kay, you must treat him kindly.”

Gareth lived the year among the kitchen boys and was constantly mocked and scorned by Sir Kay who called him Fairhands. Can you tell why? Gareth while working in the kitchen had to build fires, carry water, and scour pots and pans. He ate what the other boys ate, and never complained or scolded that he had too much work to do. He played games with the other boys, but whenever there was a tournament, he was especially happy. He liked to watch the brave knights, and he said to himself, “I soon will be able to ask King Arthur to let me do some brave deeds.”

Later you will find out what brave deeds he did do.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Here is a play written by some boys and girls.
Would you like to produce it?

GARETH COMES TO CAMELOT

ACT I

[Gareth and his mother sitting under a tree.]

GARETH. Mother, may I tell you a story?

QUEEN BELLICENT. Yes, my son.

GARETH. Suppose an eagle built a nest away up high in a tree and in the nest was a gold egg. Now a boy wanted this egg but some one whom he loved very much did not want him to get the egg. The boy became very unhappy.

QUEEN BELLICENT. The person could not have loved the boy very much, or he would have climbed the tree and got the egg for him.

GARETH. That couldn't happen, mother, for I am the boy and the gold egg is the Order of the Round Table.

QUEEN BELLICENT. Then I am the person who is making the boy very unhappy.

GARETH. Yes.

QUEEN BELLICENT. You are so young, and I have let both of your brothers go, how can I let you go?

GARETH. But, mother, I must go and do brave deeds.

QUEEN BELLICENT. No, my son, don't go; stay with me.

You can hunt in these woods, and, when you are older, I will find a beautiful Princess for you to marry.

GARETH. But, mother, I do not want a beautiful Princess to marry until I have done brave deeds, so you see I must go and become one of my uncle's knights.

QUEEN BELLICENT. If I let you go, will you make me a promise?

GARETH. I will make you one hundred promises, mother.

QUEEN BELLICENT. You must go as a kitchen boy to King Arthur's Court, not as my son. You must tell no one your real name for a whole year.

GARETH [*very soberly and slowly*]. I am very sorry, mother, you asked me a thing like that, but I promise.

ACT II.

[*King Arthur's court. Many ladies and knights and men and women in the audience hall. Enter Gareth dressed in very poor clothes.*]

GARETH [*to himself*]. My uncle seems very busy.

[*A woman approaches King Arthur and bows low*]
My good King, your father King Uther took away a piece of my husband's land and never paid him any money for it or gave it back to him.

KING ARTHUR. My good woman, I am sorry. What do you want, the money or land?

WOMAN. I want the land.

KING ARTHUR [*to one of his attendants*]. Give the woman back the land and three times the value of it in money to pay for the years King Uther had it.

GARETH. My uncle is certainly kind and just. All they

say about him is true. I am very proud of him. Just to be near him is something. He isn't so busy now. I think I will go and speak to him.

[*He goes and bows before King Arthur.*]

GARETH. My King, you see my poor clothes. May I work as kitchen boy for you for a year and then after that I will tell you my name?

KING ARTHUR. What an idea. You are a good-looking boy, don't you want to do anything else but work in my kitchen?

GARETH. I can't now, sir.

KING ARTHUR. I shall put you in charge of Sir Kay. [*Turning to Sir Kay who is near*] Sir Kay, here is a boy who wants to work in my kitchen, so I will put him in your charge.

SIR KAY. What? Work in the kitchen when a strong boy like him might train for a knight. What, Sir Fairhands, are you afraid to fight?

SIR LANCELOT [*stepping forward*]. Now look here, Sir Kay. This boy is of noble birth, I am sure. He likely has his reasons for doing this work. You treat him kindly.

SIR KAY. I will treat him kindly all right. I will let him soil those white hands of his.

SIR LANCELOT. He looks honest. I know he will turn out all right.

SIR KAY. Come with me, Fairhands, we will start your training.

ACT III

GARETH [*alone, looking out of a window*]. My year is nearly up. How happy I am. Haven't King Arthur and Sir Lancelot been good to me all this while. They told me

I have done good work, and Sir Lancelot always seems pleased when he sees me watching the knights. Just think, I will soon be one.

THE END

Number from 1 to 10 on your paper and write *Yes* if you think the sentence is true, and *No* if you think it false.

1. Gareth was a cheerful and obedient boy.
2. Sir Kay was courteous.
3. King Arthur and Sir Lancelot were kind and courteous.
4. Gareth was glad to work in the kitchen.
5. Gareth was not able to keep his word to his mother.
6. Gareth was willing to undergo hardship in order to do what he felt was right.
7. Gareth was sulky and cross when he was working in the kitchen.
8. King Arthur was just and generous to the poor woman.
9. Gareth was noble in his heart and thoughts.
10. Gareth's mother was proud of him.

What would you have done in Gareth's place?
Would you rather be like Gareth or Sir Kay?
Why?

CHAPTER IX

LANCELOT AND THE FALCON

The greatest knight of all King Arthur's knights was Sir Lancelot. No knight with whom he jousted could keep the saddle, and no shield was proof against his sword, yet he was generous and courteous. He was the first to rejoice in the successes of other knights. In the tournaments he would not fight the young knights but gave them the chance to win glory for themselves. After his mother died, it is thought he was brought up by the good Lady of the Lake. You remember it was she who gave King Arthur his sword.

Lancelot was so brave, good, and kind that he was greatly feared by wicked nobles and men. He was always ready to defend the weak and force justice from the strong and wicked.

One day when Sir Lancelot was traveling through the country, he came upon a splendid castle. From a window in that castle he saw a

beautiful falcon fly. The lines with which it had been tied were hanging from the feet of the bird. As he watched the falcon, it flew into a tree. The lines became tangled with the branches and held the bird fast.

Just then from the castle came a fair lady, and she cried "Lancelot, O Lancelot, help me get my falcon. If my husband finds it has escaped, he will kill me in his anger."

"Who is your husband?" asked Lancelot.

"He is Sir Phelot, a knight with a very bad and hasty temper," answered the lady. "I beg of you to help me."

"I will try to help you," said Sir Lancelot, "but the tree is hard to climb and I am no climber. However, I will do my best."

The lady helped Sir Lancelot take off his heavy armor. He led his horse to the foot of the tree, jumped upon its back, and then sprang to the nearest bough. He climbed from branch to branch until he reached the falcon.

He tied it with the lines to a dead branch and then threw bird and branch to the ground.

The lady was able to capture the bird easily.

Then came Sir Phelot from behind a tree where he had been watching Sir Lancelot and

said, "Now, Sir Lancelot, I have you where I long have wanted you. I can easily kill you."

Sir Lancelot answered, "Surely, Sir Phelot, you would not kill an unarmed knight. That is not honorable. You would reap no glory for your deed."

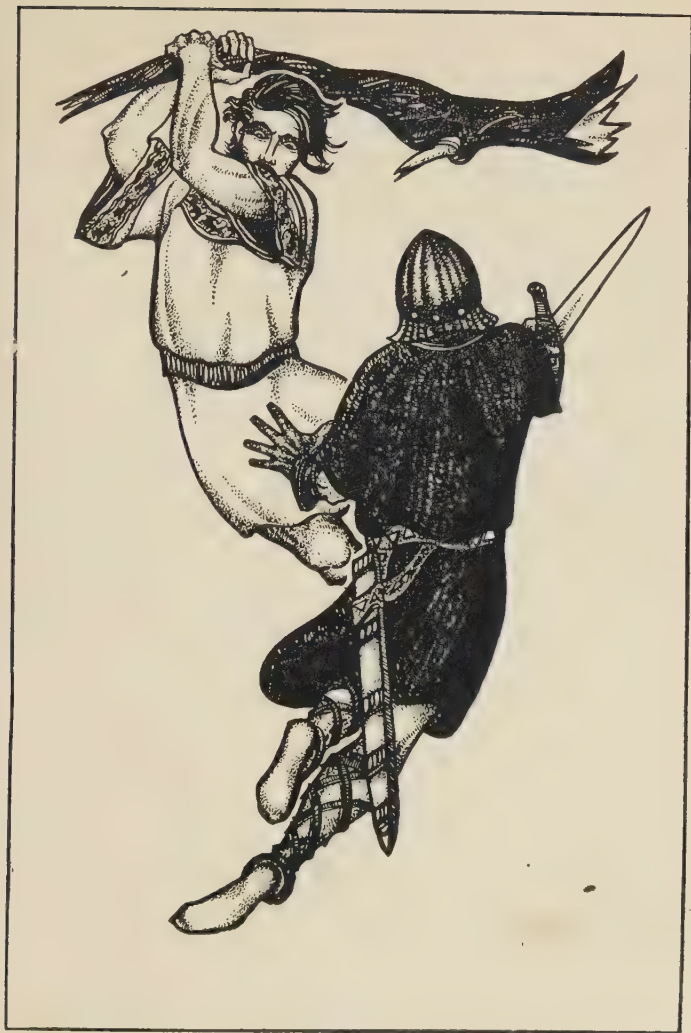
But Sir Phelot laughed as he said, "No, no, Sir Lancelot, I want to kill you, and there is no other way to do it. Small chance I would have if you were armed."

"Alas!" replied Sir Lancelot, "whoever thought a knight would do a thing like this." Turning to the lady, he exclaimed, "And you, madam, how could you be a partner in a mean thing like this?"

"She did it because I made her," said Sir Phelot.

Lancelot made up his mind that he would not give in without a struggle. He saw above his head a great bare branch. Using all his strength he tore it down. Then, watching his chance, he jumped to the ground on the other side of his horse. Now his horse was between Sir Phelot and himself.

Sir Phelot made a rush for him with his sword, but Sir Lancelot avoided him and used



AS QUICK AS A FLASH, SIR LANCELOT STRUCK SIR PHELOT
ON THE HEAD WITH THE BRANCH.

the branch for protection. As quick as a flash and with all his mighty strength he struck Sir Phelot on the head with the branch.

Sir Phelot sank to the ground unconscious. Sir Lancelot seized his sword where it lay beside his armor and unfastened his helmet.

When Sir Phelot's wife saw him do this, she screamed, and cried, "Oh, spare him, spare him, noble knight. Do not kill him, I beg of you."

But Sir Lancelot answered sternly, "He who does not give mercy does not deserve mercy. If I am any judge of his wickedness, he has lived too long already." Then with one blow he smote off Sir Phelot's head. He put on his armor and rode away.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Complete the following sentences in the way which you think is best.

1. Lancelot was generous because
 - a. he would not fight and unhorse the young knights.
 - b. all wicked nobles and men feared him.
 - c. he was brought up by the Lady of the Lake.
2. Lancelot was willing to help the lady because
 - a. there was a reward.
 - b. he was strong.
 - c. he liked to do favors.
3. Sir Phelot proved he was an evil knight because
 - a. he had a bad temper.
 - b. he laughed at Lancelot.
 - c. he was going to kill an unarmed knight.
4. Sir Phelot's wife was weak in character because
 - a. she helped Lancelot take off his armor.
 - b. she lied to Lancelot.
 - c. she begged for her husband's life.
5. When Lancelot faced death at Sir Phelot's hand, he was
 - a. too frightened to do anything.
 - b. crying and begging for mercy.
 - c. prompt and self-reliant.

6. Sir Lancelot thought Sir Phelot should die because
- a. of his bad and quick temper.
 - b. his cruelty made his wife lie.
 - c. he would do great harm if allowed to live.

Write five words that describe Sir Lancelot's character and five that describe that of Sir Phelot.

Do you think Sir Lancelot should have spared Sir Phelot?

At your club meeting divide into two sections. Let one section think of all the reasons for sparing the life of Sir Phelot and let the other section give the reasons for not sparing his life.

Write your reasons for thinking as you do. Then compare the reasons of both sides and find out which side has the better ones.

Why could not Sir Lancelot have forgiven Sir Phelot as Tristram did his stepmother?

This chapter also can be made into a play. Appoint a number of club members to produce it at your next meeting.

Which of your plays has been the most successful so far?

Which costumes have been the best?

Have any plays been so good as to be worth putting on in assembly?

CHAPTER X

THE KNIGHT WITH THE LARGE COAT

One day a strange young man entered King Arthur's court. He was huge, so huge that he could scarcely squeeze through the doorway. The knights all sat and stared at him, for he really seemed to be a young giant.

As he came nearer, they saw he wore a coat that was too large for him. The sleeves were so long that he had to turn them up. The coat fitted badly across the back and hung in ripples. Once, however, it had been beautiful. It was made of gold cloth but was now old and covered with dark blood stains.

The young man walked up to King Arthur, and declared, "My name is Brune, and I want to be made a knight."

At this Sir Kay, who thought himself very witty and clever, remarked, "He must be named the Knight with the Badly Made Coat."

"Call me what you wish," said the young

man. "I will take any name, for I cannot tell my own."

Arthur felt sorry for him and said, "Young man, all who are made knights must train for a long time. First they are pages. Then they become esquires and, if they have proved themselves honest, faithful, and brave, then, and then only do I make them knights. But I must know from where they come and who their fathers are."

"My lord," said Brune, "I would gladly tell you all about myself, but I have sworn a vow that will not allow me to. I can tell you, however, that my father was a noble who loved peace and lived happily at home with my good mother and the people who dwelt in our castle.

"One day about six years ago when I was a mere boy, I was bathing in a brook near our castle while my father slept at the foot of a tree. An enemy who wanted my father's lands came up and drove his sword into my father's heart. Then he rode away.

"I ran to my dead father, took off the coat that he wore, and put it on. Then I swore never to take it off and never to tell my father's name

or where I came from until I had punished the man who killed my father.

"I rode home to our castle, but the enemy had taken possession of it and had made my mother a prisoner. Because I was not grown up, I could not do anything.

"I have lived with the good shepherds nearby. I am strong enough to pull up a young tree by the roots so I thought it was time for me to come to your court. For months and years I have tried to pull up a young tree, but only this morning did I succeed."

The knights all felt sorry for this boy and asked the King to make him a knight. They all offered to teach him to use arms and to help him to learn the other duties of knight-hood.

The King said he must wait for a while to find out what kind of a man Brune would be.

A few days after this all the knights rode off to a tournament and left Brune home with a few soldiers to protect the Queen and the ladies. Brune was in the courtyard practicing with his sword when he saw Queen Guinevere with her bodyguard of twelve soldiers pass by.

She stopped and was speaking kindly to



BRUNE STRUGGLES WITH THE LION.

Brune whose story she had heard from the King. Suddenly he saw coming toward them a fierce lion that had broken out of its cage.

The twelve soldiers fled, and Brune knew he would have to protect the Queen.

He 'stood very still as the lion bounded toward him. Since in his fear he had dropped his sword, he knew there was only one thing for him to do. As the huge beast leaped upon him, he seized its head in his hands. And with his great strength he slowly bent back its head. It was a strong lion, but Brune also was strong. Presently, as Brune struggled with the lion, the Queen and Brune heard a loud crack, and they knew that the lion's neck was broken. Brune let go, and the huge beast dropped to the ground.

In the meantime, the King and some of his knights had returned. They saw what Brune had done and cheered him.

"Kneel," said the King. Brune knelt beside the body of the lion, and King Arthur, touching him lightly with his sword, pronounced, "Sir Brune, I make you a Knight of my Round Table. Be loyal, brave, and merciful."

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

On one side of this page you will find some questions and on the other side you will find the answers. On a separate sheet of paper match the questions with the answers.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Why did all the knights sit and stare at Brune? | Because he thought he was witty and clever. |
| 2. What did Brune want of King Arthur? | I make you Knight of my Round Table. Be loyal, brave, and merciful. |
| 3. What answer did King Arthur give? | Pulling up a tree by the roots. |
| 4. What did the knights offer to do for him? | Because he was so big. |
| 5. Why could not Brune tell his name? | They ran to safety and left the Queen. |
| 6. Why did Sir Kay answer the way he did? | He broke the lion's neck. |
| 7. What test did Brune make to try his strength? | He wanted King Arthur to make him a knight. |
| 8. What happened to the Queen's bodyguard when they saw the lion? | All knights must train for a long time. They must prove themselves honest, faithful, and brave. |
| 9. What did Brune do to save the Queen? | Teach him how to use arms and do the other duties of knights. |

10. What did the King say when he made Brune a knight? He had made a vow not to tell his father's name until he had punished the man who had killed him.

You have read how knights did great and brave deeds.

Do you have any chances to do good deeds? Are you really knights in training as they were? Discuss in your club meetings ways in which you can show your loyalty, obedience, kindness, and courtesy.

This chapter can easily be dramatized. Write your own play. Plan two acts. In Act I have Brune entering King Arthur's court.

Let Act II show Brune's bravery and his being made a knight.

CHAPTER XI

BALIN AND BALAN

One day there came to the court of King Arthur a young maiden who was richly dressed, but underneath her robe she wore a heavy sword.

“Damsel,” asked the King, “why do you wear a sword?”

“I have to wear it,” replied the maiden. “I should be very glad if I did not. It is very heavy and causes me much trouble, but I have to carry it until I can find a knight who can take it away from me.”

In the courtroom with many other knights when the damsel arrived was a poor knight by the name of Balin. He was very brave but was self-willed and not inclined to accept any advice. He loved King Arthur and longed to do some brave deed that would bring glory to the court.

King Arthur said to the maiden, “There are

many knights here, I believe, who can remove the sword for you, and they will be glad to do it. Suppose you choose some of them to try."

"I am afraid there are no knights here that can do this," said the maiden, looking around.

"It has been foretold that there is only one knight in the world who can take it from me."

"Anyway, my knights can try," said the King.

Then one of the knights stepped forward, and, though he pulled with all his strength, he was not able to unfasten the sword.

"Don't pull so hard," said the maiden to the other knights. "The right knight will be able to unfasten it easily."

All the knights stepped forward and tried except Sir Balin. Although he wanted to try very much, he was ashamed on account of his poor clothes. But just as the maiden was about to leave the court, he stepped up to her and said, "Will you please let me try? I may be the knight."

The maiden wondered if he were really a knight for his clothes were so poor. But he looked interested and kind, and she answered sadly, "I am afraid you will not succeed."

Then Sir Balin spoke, "Good deeds are done by poor people just as well as rich ones, and, though my clothes are very poor, yet my heart is kind."

"You may try," the maiden answered.

Sir Balin took the hilt of the sword, and it easily unfastened in his hands.

The King and all the knights were very much surprised, and the maiden said, "You must be a very good knight. I believe you will do brave and great deeds. But now I should like to have my sword again."

"No," said Sir Balin, "I want to keep this sword for I do not have any."

"I do not like to give you the sword," said the maiden, "but since you have asked for it, I can do nothing but let you have it."

"It seems to me," spoke the King, "he should have it for it isn't any good to you. I should think you would be glad to be rid of the sword."

"I am," answered the maiden, "but it is very bad for him to keep the sword. With it he will kill one he loves dearly."

Sir Balin laughed at her and replied, "Oh, no, I will not kill any one I love, and I want to

go out and meet adventures so the sword will come in handy.”

The maiden, after bidding them all farewell, sorrowfully departed.

Balin went to King Arthur and said, “My lord, I now want to leave your court for a time. I hope to return later and bring with me the glory of having done good and brave deeds.”

King Arthur told him he might go and gave him as a parting gift a fine horse and bright new armor.

Sir Balin rode until he was very weary. Then he began to think of resting for in the distance he saw a gloomy castle. He rode toward it gladly thinking he would find food and rest there.

As he neared the castle, he saw a sign in the shape of a gold cross bearing the words, “Let no knight go to the castle, for great danger is there.”

“Oh,” said Sir Balin to himself as he shrugged his shoulders, “I like danger and I am afraid of nothing.” Not heeding the warning, he rode straight ahead.

Sir Balin had not gone very far when he

met an old man dressed in a long gray robe and having a long gray beard. He asked Sir Balin, "Did you not read the sign?"

"Yes," answered Balin, "I read it, but I have no fear."

"Oh, Sir Balin, do not go into that castle," begged the old man, "take my advice or you you will be sorry."

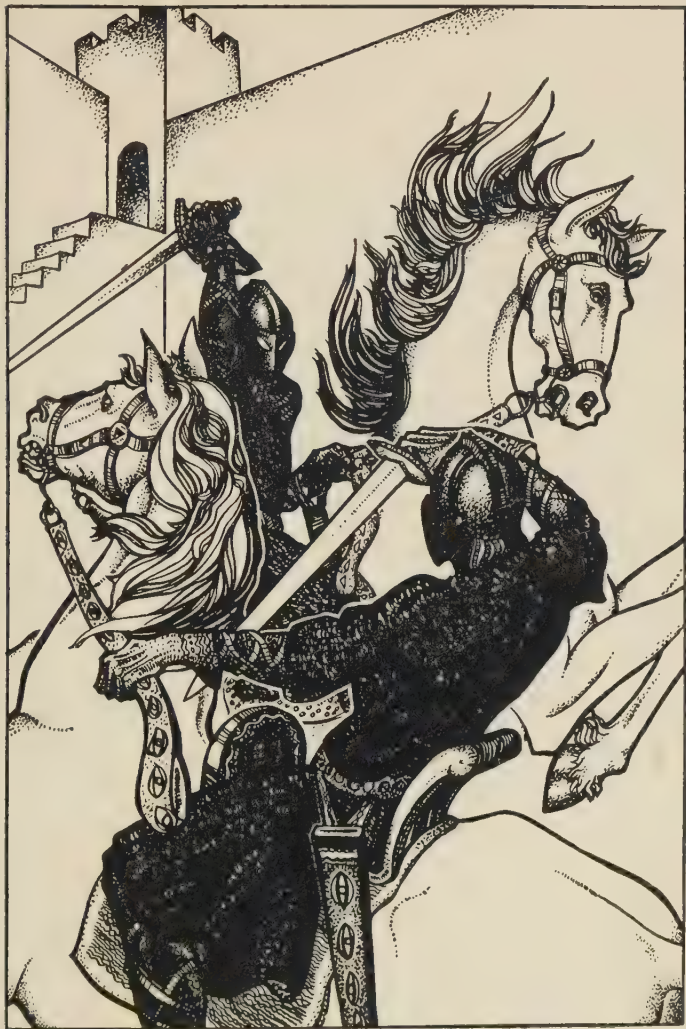
"I will take nobody's advice," said Balin. "I want to go into that castle, and I am going."

"Sir Balin, you are too self-willed. You will be sorry for this before you die."

Sir Balin rode on until he reached the castle. There he found many ladies and many knights. They took off his armor and gave him a beautiful cloak to wear. They gave him food and drink that he enjoyed very much after his long ride.

After he had eaten, the mistress of the castle came to him and said, "Every knight who comes here must fight after he has had food and drink."

"That is a strange custom," said Sir Balin, "but if I must, I must. Let some one bring my armor."



THE TWO BLACK KNIGHTS FOUGHT AND FOUGHT UNTIL
THEY HAD NO BREATH LEFT.

“You will fight the knight who came just before you did,” said the lady.

A servant brought up a suit of armor for Sir Balin.

“That is not my armor,” he said. “That armor is black. Mine is gray trimmed with blue.”

“You must wear that armor,” ordered the lady. “Every one must wear black armor that fights here.”

Sir Balin now was very sorry that he had come to this castle. He slowly put on the armor and went into the courtyard where he found his horse. He also had the sword that he had taken from the damsel.

Another knight dressed also in black armor came out to meet him.

They fought and fought until they had no breath left. Then they rested. Then they fought again and wounded one another so badly that each knew he would die.

Sir Balin cried to the knight, “Who are you? I never fought with such a knight as you before!”

“I am Sir Balan, brother of the brave knight, Sir Balin,” cried the other black knight.

Sir Balin fell from his horse crying, "Woe! Woe! that I should do this thing."

Sir Balan was dying, but he thought he had heard the voice of his brother. He crawled on his hands and knees to where Sir Balin lay and took off his helmet.

Then he wept bitterly. Sir Balin was too sorry even to cry. He said, "All this is my fault. I have been too self-willed. I wouldn't take the maiden's advice nor the advice of the old man. I deserve to die, but it is very hard to think I have killed you, my brother."

Some ladies came into the courtyard, and the two brothers asked to be buried together. Merlin placed a stone over their grave telling the sad story of their death.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Here is an exercise to find out how well you remember what you read.

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct word.

1. The damsel wore underneath her robe a
2. Balin was a very brave but knight.
3. Balin would not take any one's
4. "The right knight will be able to unfasten the sword," said the
5. King Arthur gave Sir Balin as a parting gift a and bright new
6. As Balin neared the castle he saw a in the shape of a
7. At the castle Balin was given and that he enjoyed very much after his long
8. "That is not my armor," he said, "that armor is Mine is trimmed with
9. "I am Sir, brother of the brave knight Sir," said the other black knight.
10. placed a stone over their telling the sad of their

This chapter can easily be dramatized. Let the play have five scenes.

Scene 1. The court of King Arthur. The damsel enters. Balin is able to unfasten the sword for her.

Scene 2. Balin leaving the court.

Scene 3. Balin meets the old man.

Scene 4. Balin's entrance to the castle.

Scene 5. The fight between the two knights.

This chapter also gives you a good subject for an interesting composition. Write the story in your own words.

Are you keeping and marking faithfully the charts of the Knighthood of Youth? Do you think the Knights of King Arthur could do the things that those charts ask of you?

If you find any trouble in your training for your modern knighthood, talk about it in your club meeting as King Arthur and his Knights would have done at their famous Round Table.

CHAPTER XII

PERCEVAL FINDS OUT ABOUT KNIGHTS

In the north of Great Britain there lived an Earl named Evrawe. He had seven sons, six of whom were old enough to seek adventures with their father. They won many prizes at a great number of tournaments, but the day came when the Earl and his six sons were killed in a fierce battle.

Upon hearing this terrible news, his widow, the Countess, fled with her youngest son Perceval and her servants to a lonely spot in the midst of a thick forest. She was determined that Perceval should grow up where he would never hear of jousts and tournaments. In that way she hoped that she would always have him with her.

Perceval was brought up among women and old men, and they all were told never to mention to him what men did in the great world beyond the forest. He grew to be a strong,

nimble, and bright boy. He was also neat, painstaking, and thoughtful in all he did.

One day when Perceval had become a big boy, he saw riding by in the forest a knight clad in steel armor. This knight was named Sir Owain. Perceval, who had never before seen a knight, cried out, "Mother, what is that which I see riding by?"

His mother, thinking of her lost husband and six other sons, lied to Perceval. She replied, "An angel, my son."

"I am going to be an angel like him," said Perceval, and, before any one could stop him, he had run to Sir Owain.

Owain, when he saw him coming, called to the lad, "Fair youth, I am called Sir Owain. Can you tell me if a knight has passed this way?"

"I do not know what a knight is," said Perceval.

"Why one dressed as I am is a knight," said Sir Owain, looking at the lad in surprise.

Perceval had now become very curious, so he said to the knight, "Sir Owain, if you will tell me what I want to know, I will tell you what you want to know."



PERCEVAL ASKS SIR OWAIN ABOUT THE PARTS OF
HIS ARMOR.

Sir Owain laughed at his cleverness and answered, "All right."

Perceval touched the horse's saddle and said: "Please tell me what this is."

Sir Owain told him. Then Perceval asked about all the parts of his armor. Kindly and patiently Sir Owain told him all he wanted to know. Then Perceval told him that the day before, in the distance, he had seen a man dressed as he was riding through the forest, but he had not been able to stop him or ask any questions.

After the knight had ridden away, Perceval returned to his mother and said, "Mother, that was not an angel but a brave knight."

His mother began to weep and knew that she could no longer keep her son with her. She must tell him the truth and let him live his life.

Perceval went to where the horses were kept. The servants used the animals to haul fuel and food for the family. Perceval found a bag which he placed upon the horse's back making it look like a saddle, and then he trimmed the horse with twigs so that they appeared like the trappings he had seen on the horse of Sir

Owain. Finally he brought the horse to show his mother.

His mother put her arms around him and said, "I see, my son, you are going to leave me."

"Yes, mother," he replied. "I want your permission to go and become a knight."

"Yes," she answered, "I know you must go. I had hoped always to have you with me, but that is not to be. I want you to go to King Arthur's court, for there are the truest and bravest knights. I want you to be a good knight. Always say your prayers and worship God and, if any woman asks help or aid of you in any way, do not refuse her."

After Perceval had said good-bye to his mother, he mounted his horse and rode away. Then, desiring a weapon, he found a long stake and made a very sharp point at one end.

He traveled many days and at last came to Caerleon where Arthur at this time was holding his court.

You will find out about Perceval's adventures later.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Here are ten statements. Some are true and some are not true. On your paper write the numbers 1 to 10 and write *Yes* if the sentence is true and *No* if it is not true.

1. Earl Evrawe had seven sons, all of whom were killed.
2. The Earl's wife fled to a lonely spot in the midst of the forest.
3. The Countess' youngest son was called Perceval.
4. Perceval's mother told him about knights.
5. Perceval did not know what a knight was.
6. Sir Owain thought Perceval a clever and bright boy.
7. Perceval got armor for his horse.
8. He took the horse to show his mother.
9. The Countess would not give her permission for Perceval to go to King Arthur's Court.
10. She told him to become a good knight.

Have you had your King Arthur party yet?

Have you been able to put any King Arthur plays on in assembly?

If you have had your party and given plays, plan a King Arthur contest.

Divide your club members into two groups. Have each member pick out five questions from the chapters of this book you have read.

Line up in two rows.

Have the boy or girl opposite ask you a question. If you can answer it, count one point for your side. If you cannot answer it, count two points for the other side.

If you can think up a question the boy or girl opposite you cannot answer, it counts two points for your side. If he can answer your question, it counts one point for his side.

Have the contest last ten minutes the first time you play. Then allow it to run for three more weeks. The side having the largest score at the end of four weeks wins.

Do you think Perceval is going to make a good knight? Why? What habits has he that you would like to have?

Are you practicing faithfully for them?

Are your charts helping you?

CHAPTER XIII

THE COMING OF GALAHAD

Years passed. Many brave men had come to sit at King Arthur's Round Table, but one seat remained empty. Merlin named this seat the Siege Perilous for as yet no knight had appeared who could sit in it.

At last one Easter season, when the knights were holding Easter services, a lady came to Arthur's court. She asked Sir Lancelot to ride with her to a forest not far away. "I want to show you something," she said.

Sir Lancelot, of course, ever polite and courteous, went with the lady. She took him to a nunnery hidden deep in the forest. Lancelot entered and saw twelve nuns and a very handsome young boy.

"Sir Lancelot," said the nuns, "we have brought up this lad, and he has undergone a knightly training, and now that he is grown to manhood, we want you to make him a knight.

He is a very good, deserving boy, and we know that he is worthy of being made a Knight of the Round Table. He is called Galahad."

Lancelot asked the boy if he wished to be made a knight, and Galahad answered yes.

Lancelot promised he would make him a knight after the great Easter service to be held the next day in the church near-by.

After the service, Lancelot made Galahad a knight. He wanted Galahad to ride with him to King Arthur's court, but Galahad said he was not able to go then with him but would come later.

Lancelot arrived at Arthur's court in time to attend the services with the whole Order of the Round Table, and all were glad that he was with them.

That night when all were ready to sit down at the banquet, there entered an old man dressed all in white followed by a young knight in red armor.

The old man bowed low before King Arthur, and said, "King Arthur, I bring you a young knight, a descendant of Joseph of Arimathea, he who buried Jesus. This young knight will win glory for all the land of Britain."



THE OLD MAN LED SIR GALAHAD TO HIS SEAT AND DREW OFF ITS SILKEN COVER.

King Arthur was very pleased to hear this and welcomed them gladly.

When the young knight had greeted the King, the old man led him to the seat called Siege Perilous and drew off its silken cover.

All the knights were very much surprised when they saw that the words on the seat had been changed from "The Siege Perilous" to "This is the seat of the noble knight, Sir Galahad."

The young man sat down in the seat where no other knight had ever sat. The knights knew then that Sir Galahad was the knight who would find the Holy Grail.

The Holy Grail was the cup or chalice that Jesus used at the Last Supper when on earth. The people believed it had been brought to Britain by Joseph of Arimathea, but it had disappeared because of men's sins and wickedness. It only now appeared only to the very pure and good.

Later in the evening when all were gathered about the Round Table, each knight in his own seat, suddenly there was a mighty peal of thunder so loud that the great hall seemed to tremble. At the same time flashed a light

brighter far than any ever seen before. In the light there appeared wrapped in white, the Holy Grail. A sweet perfume filled the air.

All the knights sat very still and quiet. Then



THE HOLY GRAIL.

King Arthur arose and gave thanks to God for the sight of the Holy Grail.

At his words many of the knights vowed to follow for a year the quest of the Holy Grail. You may read of some of their adventures later.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

This story can easily be dramatized. Write your own play for this chapter.

You can divide into two groups, one group writing the play and the other group acting it.

Then, if you are in the group that has written the play and want to act one yourselves, you might produce the play given below. This was written and produced by a group of children.

GALAHAD

ACT I.

[King Arthur's court. A nun enters, but the hall is empty for every one is attending the Easter services. A page stands near the door.]

NUN *[to page]*. Can you tell me where I could find Sir Lancelot?

PAGE. My lady, he is at the Easter service with the King, Queen, ladies, and other knights. But the service will soon be over, if you will wait here for him. I will tell him you want him. *[The nun sits down in a chair. The page bows and leaves.]*

[In a few minutes Sir Lancelot and the page return. Sir Lancelot goes up to the nun and bows.]

SIR LANCELOT. I hear you wished to speak to me. If there is anything I can do for you, I shall be very pleased.

NUN. I want you to ride into the forest with me. I have something I want to show you and a request to make of you when we reach the place.

SIR LANCELOT. Yes, certainly I will go with you.

[*Both leave.*]

ACT II.

[*The hallway of the nunnery. Twelve nuns are seated. The boy Galahad stands near the door.*]

GALAHAD. I see them coming, and there is the good knight, Sir Lancelot.

[*Enter the nun and Sir Lancelot.*]

NUN. Lancelot, I have brought you here to make this boy a knight. We have carefully brought him up. He has habits of obedience, self-control, kindness, honesty, and cheerfulness. He is always ready to help others, and we know he will make a good knight. Galahad, this is the knight, Sir Lancelot.

[*Galahad steps forward and bows.*]

SIR LANCELOT. So you wish to be made a knight, Galahad.

GALAHAD. Yes, indeed I do, Sir Lancelot.

SIR LANCELOT. I will make you a knight after to-morrow's service, Galahad. Perhaps you will ride back to King Arthur's court with me to-morrow after you are knighted.

GALAHAD. I would like to very much, Sir Lancelot, but I am afraid I will not be able to go with you so soon. But you shall see me there a little later.

ACT III.

[*King Arthur's dining hall. King Arthur and his knights are seated ready for the banquet. Enter an old man and Sir Galahad dressed in red armor.*]

OLD MAN [*bowing before King Arthur*]. King Arthur, I bring you a young knight, a descendant of Joseph of Arimathea, he who buried Jesus. This young knight will win glory for all the land of Britain.

KING ARTHUR. I am very pleased to see you both. Sit and dine with us.

[*The old man and Galahad bow before the King.*]

[*Then the old man leads Galahad to the Seat Perilous and takes off its silken cover.*]

SEVERAL OF THE KNIGHTS. Look, the words on the seat are changed.

SIR LANCELOT. Why, it says "This is the seat of the noble knight, Sir Galahad."

[*Sir Galahad sits down in the seat.*]

THE END

How is the King Arthur contest coming? Which side is winning?

Plan and build a King Arthur castle.

Can you make a perfect score on these questions?

On one side there are ten questions, on the other side ten answers. On a separate sheet of paper match the questions with the answers.



Courtesy of "The Salt Lake Tribune."

PUPILS BUILDING A CASTLE.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. What did the nun want of Sir Lancelot? | He gave thanks to God. |
| 2. Where did the nun take Sir Lancelot? | Vowed to follow for a year the quest of the Holy Grail. |
| 3. When did Sir Lancelot knight Galahad? | Joseph of Arimathea. |
| 4. Who introduced Galahad to the King? | Because of men's sins and wickedness. |
| 5. What was the name of the seat in which Sir Galahad sat? | To knight Sir Galahad. |
| 6. Sir Galahad was a descendant of what man? | To a nunnery in the forest. |

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 7. What was the Holy Grail? | An old man dressed in white. |
| 8. Why had the Holy Grail disappeared? | The next day after the service. |
| 9. What did King Arthur do after the sight of the Holy Grail? | Siege Perilous. |
| 10. What did many of the knights do? | The cup which Jesus used at the Last Supper. |

CHAPTER XIV

SIR LANCELOT RESCUES HIS FRIENDS

Sir Lancelot one day called his nephew Sir Lionel to travel with him on the quest for adventure. Sir Lionel was very glad to go for it was a great honor to be asked to accompany Sir Lancelot.

They rode all day through a deep forest and across a hot, dry, treeless plain. At last they reached a shady spot, and the two sat down to rest.

Sir Lancelot quickly fell asleep and Sir Lionel kept watch. He saw three knights being chased by a very large and strong knight. This strong knight overtook the other three knights, defeated them, and bound them hand and foot with their horses' reins.

Sir Lionel had a very good opinion of himself, and he thought he could defeat the big knight. So he mounted his horse very quietly and, without waking his uncle, rode out to fight the big knight.



From the painting by K. Y. Razynski. Courtesy of Tober Prang Art Co.

SIR LANCELOT.

When the big knight saw him coming, he laughed and rode at him quickly. At the very first blow Sir Lionel fell to the ground. The big knight fastened him to the other knights and took them all to his castle. There he took off their armor and clothes and beat them with a great thorny stick.

Then he threw them all into a dark and deep dungeon where there were some other knights that the big knight had captured before.

Sir Ector, whom you remember as the noble who cared for King Arthur as a boy, on returning to King Arthur's court learned that Sir Lancelot and Sir Lionel had set out for adventures. He decided to join them, so he set out on horseback after them.

After riding a long time, he came to a tree in the forest upon which were hanging many shields and swords. Sir Ector saw Sir Lionel's sword hanging there and also recognized others that belonged to knights of the Round Table.

He knew the knights must be prisoners and he grew very angry. With his sword he hit upon the shields, making a great noise. Suddenly there appeared the big knight.

“Come and fight with me,” cried Sir Ector.

“All right,” said the big knight, “but I shall be the victor, for I am the great Sir Turquaine.”

Sir Ector then knew he would have a hard task to defeat this knight, for he had captured many of King Arthur’s knights.

But the old man was brave and determined to do his best. He wounded Sir Turquaine once, but Sir Turquaine wounded him many times and at last made him his prisoner. He tied him and carried him under his right arm into the castle.

“You are very brave,” said Sir Turquaine to Sir Ector. “I admire you and your fighting very much. If you will become a follower of mine, I will give you your freedom. You are the first knight to wound me for many years.”

“I am a follower of King Arthur and will never desert him,” replied the brave Sir Ector.

“Well, I will do with you as I have done with the other prisoners,” said Sir Turquaine. Thereupon he took off Sir Ector’s armor and clothes and beat him with the stick and threw him into the dungeon with all the other knights.

Sir Ector first looked about to see if Sir Lancelot was there. When he found he was not, he gave a sigh of relief and said, "I know Sir Lancelot will find us and set us free."

Sir Lionel told Sir Ector he had left Sir Lancelot sleeping under a tree.

After a long nap Sir Lancelot awoke and wondered where his nephew, Sir Lionel, had gone. He rode on to search for him, but failing to find him rode back toward the clump of trees under which he had fallen asleep. On the way he met a fair lady riding on a white horse.

"Fair lady," he said, "do you know anything about this country? I am Sir Lancelot of the Lake."

"Ah, Sir Lancelot," said the lady, "I am so glad you have come, for there is a knight here named Sir Turquaine who has put into a dungeon many of the good knights of the Round Table. I will show you where he lives, and you can rescue your friends."

She led the way and Lancelot followed. Soon they came to the tree on which were hung the shields of the captured knights of the Round Table.

After Sir Lancelot let his horse drink some water, he made a great noise by hitting the shields, but no one appeared.

Lancelot then rode up to the castle of Sir Turquaine. At the gate he met the big knight. Sir Turquaine had captured another knight, Sir Gaheris, the brother of Sir Gareth, and had him bound upon his horse.

“Unbind that knight, get on your own horse, and fight with me,” said Sir Lancelot.

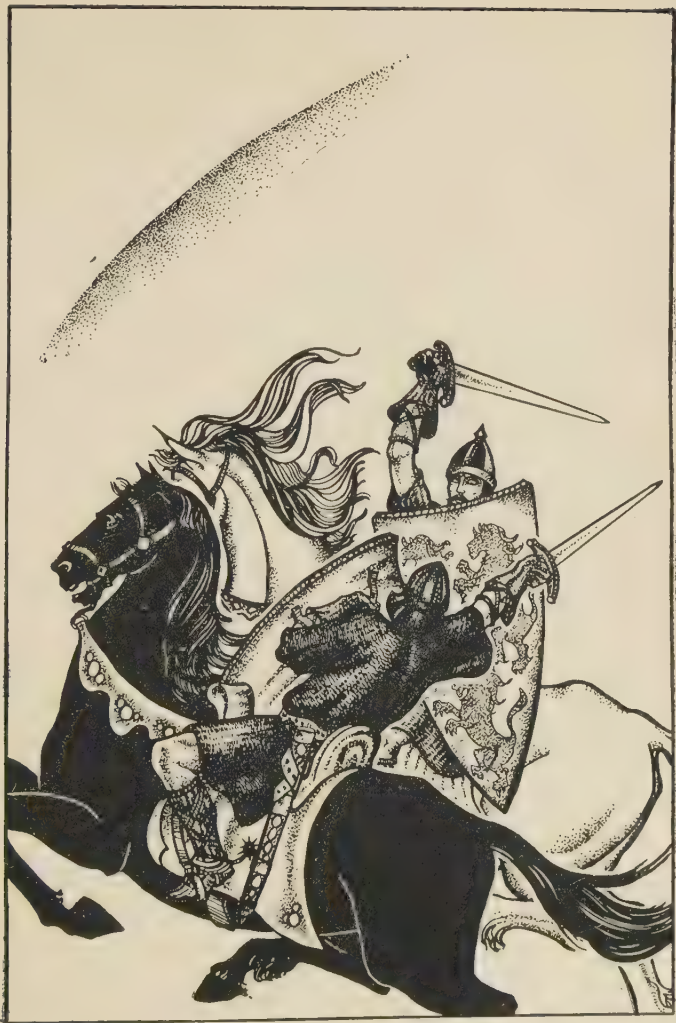
“All right,” answered Sir Turquaine, “but you will be sorry.”

They fought until they were breathless. Each was bleeding from many wounds.

Then Sir Turquaine, gasping for breath, said, “I never have fought with such a strong man as you are before. I want to be your friend, not your enemy. You fight as must that man whom I hate the most in the world. Tell me your name, and I will give you my friendship and set free all my prisoners if you so desire.”

“That is fair enough,” replied Sir Lancelot, “but tell me the name of the knight whom you hate.”

“His name is Lancelot,” said Sir Turquaine,



SIR LANCELOT FIGHTS WITH SIR TURQUAINE.

“I hate him so bitterly that I kill or imprison every knight of the Round Table that I see.”

“I am Lancelot,” cried Sir Lancelot, “so we will start fighting again.”

They fought long and furiously, and the ground was covered with blood. Sir Turquaine, though very strong, was not quite so strong as Sir Lancelot, and at last he fell dying to the ground.

Sir Lancelot unlaced Turquaine’s helmet and made his last moments as easy as he could. Then he got the keys from the caretaker and unlocked the doors of the dungeon.

All the knights were happy to be free, and Sir Ector and Sir Lionel were very glad that it was Sir Lancelot who had rescued them. Each knight found his horse, his armor, and his shield, and soon all were far away from the hateful dungeon.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Here is something for you to do and think about.

1. Find the paragraph that shows Sir Lionel was brave but not very wise.

2. Find the paragraph that tells that the big knight laughed at Sir Lionel's good opinion of himself.

3. Find the paragraph that told Sir Ector that many of the knights of the Round Table were prisoners.

4. Find the paragraph that shows that the knights' lives were not always pleasant.

5. Find the paragraph that tells Sir Ector liked to be of service to others.

6. Find the paragraph that shows Sir Ector's loyalty to King Arthur.

7. Find the paragraph that tells Sir Ector was very glad that Sir Lancelot was not a prisoner.

8. Find the paragraph in which Sir Lancelot is shown the way to Sir Turquaine's castle.

9. Find the paragraph that tells Sir Turquaine hated Sir Lancelot. Why do you think he hated Sir Lancelot so much?

10. Find the paragraph that shows that Sir Lancelot was kind and generous even to his enemies.

Read aloud the paragraph you like the best in

this chapter. You do not have to tell why you like it.

Are your charts any easier to mark now than at first?

What are the acts you can do easier now than when you started to train?

What is the thing you find the hardest to do?

Did any of the knights have trouble with the same habit?

Notice the change in the marks on your chart which show your improvement in training to be knights.

CHAPTER XV

SIR IVAINE

Although most of King Arthur's knights, of course, had good qualities, a few had some bad qualities as well. In that respect they were very much like boys and girls of to-day. These knights were always striving, however, to become more deserving of their knighthood. Are you striving for more and more good qualities? Are you trying to overcome your bad qualities?

One knight whose name was Sir Ivaine was brave, kind-hearted, fun-loving, and generous. But he often forgot his promises and sometimes made jokes of serious things.

When Sir Ivaine was young and had just been made a knight, he fought with a wicked Black Knight and was defeated by him.

The Black Knight thought he had killed Ivaine and left him lying on the ground, but Sir Ivaine after a time was able to mount his horse and return to his home.

When Sir Ivaine had completely recovered from his wounds, he wanted to go back and fight again with the Black Knight.

One evening after supper when all the knights were sitting around the huge fireplace telling their stories, Sir Ivaine remarked he would like to go and fight once more with the wicked Black Knight.

No sooner had he uttered these words than King Arthur and Queen Guinevere entered the room. Sir Ivaine was the first to see them and jumped to his feet.

Sir Kay, who sometimes was very disagreeable, said, "Oh, you are very polite. I think you have more courtesy than bravery."

Sir Ivaine blushed crimson and answered, "I am sure I can now conquer the Black Knight. I will start right away."

Sir Kay laughed and said teasingly, "Oh, you have had a good supper and feel very brave."

King Arthur asked Sir Kay what he was talking about.

After Sir Kay had told King Arthur, Sir Ivaine said, "My King, I want to start off tomorrow to kill this wicked Black Knight."

King Arthur looked at him kindly as he said, "I have heard of this Black Knight before, but I have been so busy righting the wrongs of the people near home that he has escaped. To-morrow a group of us will start off and conquer this man and his wicked followers, and you may be one of the group."

Sir Ivaine said nothing, but he was very angry. He wanted to punish the Black Knight himself. He did not want the help of others.

In the middle of the night he set off all alone. He did not stop to think that though he was brave he was also disobedient and was not quite fair to the other knights who were to go with him.

He traveled during all the night, and morning found him far from home. As he was going through a valley, he saw a fight between a lion and a large snake. The struggle was long and fierce. At last the snake coiled itself about the lion and began squeezing it to death.

Sir Ivaine felt very sorry for the lion, so he killed the snake with his sword.

The lion was very grateful to Sir Ivaine and refused to leave him. They traveled on together, and at night Sir Ivaine discovered that



THE SNAKE COILED ITSELF ABOUT THE LION.

the lion was most comfortable to sleep with. The lion was nice and warm, and its fur made a soft pillow for him.

One day Sir Ivaine and the lion came to a castle, and the people, not knowing the lion was tame, began to shoot arrows at it. Sir Ivaine at last stopped them and made it plain to them that the lion was tame. Then the people told Ivaine that he must fight with their lord. He replied he would, and the people allowed him and the lion to enter the courtyard.

Then the lord of the castle and Sir Ivaine began to fight. The lord of the castle was larger than Sir Ivaine and able to strike more powerful blows. But Sir Ivaine was very skillful and better able to avoid the blows, and soon he was able to overthrow the lord.

When the lord of the castle knew he was defeated, he called for his followers to come and kill Ivaine.

Twenty men came running and soon would have killed Sir Ivaine had not the lion jumped in front of Sir Ivaine and growled savagely at the men. They were afraid to touch Sir Ivaine when he had such a powerful protector.

Sir Ivaine told the lord of the castle that he

must go to King Arthur's court and tell the king how unfair he had been, whereupon the King and the knights there would decide on his punishment.

Sir Ivaine did not return with the lord of the castle for he wanted to go on and meet the Black Knight. Sir Ivaine and the faithful lion then continued on their journey.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Here are some questions for you to answer and think about. If you do not agree on the answers, talk them over among yourselves at your club meeting.

1. What words in the story tell you Sir Ivaine was courteous?

2. What words tell you Sir Kay was disagreeable at times? Do you know other stories that have told you Sir Kay was not a cheerful person? Do you know people like him? Are you like him sometimes?

3. What words show that Sir Ivaine was not pleased at what Sir Kay said?

4. Do you think Sir Ivaine exercised self-control? Do you think Sir Kay did? Can you remember a time when you did not exercise self-control? When you did?

5. Did Sir Ivaine play fair with King Arthur and the other knights? What would you have done in his place?

6. What words tell you Sir Ivaine was kind to animals? Are you always kind to animals?

7. What words tell you how Sir Ivaine was able to defeat the lord of the castle?

8. Did the lord of the castle play fair?

9. What words tell you Sir Ivaine thought King Ar-

thur and his knights better able to give justice and to always play fair? Do you always play fair?

10. What quality did the lion have? What made it have that quality? If you want animals to have that quality, what must you do?

CHAPTER XVI

SIR IVAINE AND THE BLACK KNIGHT

After many days of travel Sir Ivaine reached the forest in which dwelt the Black Knight.

When the Black Knight met Sir Ivaine, he knew him at once. He was very much surprised at seeing him alive and exclaimed, "I see I was mistaken. I thought I had killed you. But you shall not go free this time."

Sir Ivaine smiled and answered, "Victory shall go to the better knight."

Then the two began to fight, and it was not long before the Black Knight knew that this time Sir Ivaine was the stronger. At last the Black Knight knew he was wounded so badly that he would die, and he started his horse in the direction of his castle.

After telling his lion to stay where he was, Sir Ivaine followed.

Now the Black Knight's castle had a moat,

or deep trench, dug all around its walls so that no enemy could climb up the wall. There was a drawbridge, that is a small bridge that could be raised or lowered. It was raised so enemies could not cross, and it was lowered for the Black Knight and his friends to cross over the moat and gain an entrance into the castle.

The gate of the castle also was usually protected by a portcullis. This was an iron door that could be raised or lowered. It had sharp spikes on the bottom so that a person or horse would be instantly killed if the portcullis fell upon him.

Sir Ivaine was not able to overtake the Black Knight in his race for the castle, but he was only a few feet behind.

The Black Knight and Sir Ivaine rode under the portcullis and the instant they were inside, down it came. Ivaine only escaped being killed by the portcullis by an inch or two. The plume on his helmet was cut off and fell on the outside of the gate.

Ivaine prepared himself for an attack, but the Black Knight had fallen dead from his wounds, and his panting horse was slowly walking across the courtyard.



SIR IVAINE RAN INTO THE CASTLE AND UP THE STAIRS.

Ivaine saw that he was in great danger and wished very much for the help of the good knights and King Arthur. Even his lion might protect him now if he had him. He realized that all the people in the castle would be his enemies, and he could not escape for the portcullis was down.

Still he could not stay where he was, so he ran into the castle and up the stairs. His heavy armor made a loud noise, or so it seemed to Sir Ivaine, at every step of the way.

Tired and weak he reached the top of the stairs just as a door of a room opened. He found himself face to face with a little girl. He begged her not to scream and told her who he was, what he had done, and then asked her to hide him because the knight's friends and followers would soon be after him to kill him.

"I will hide you," the little girl said, "for you are brave and you have been wounded and also because you have killed that wicked Black Knight. He does not own this castle at all. He brought all his followers here and has kept his cousin, my beautiful mistress, who owns this castle, a prisoner because she will not marry him."

The little girl then took him into a room where she hid his armor in a secret hiding place in the wall and hid him between the two mattresses of her bed.

Just before he hid between the mattresses he looked out of the window into the courtyard and saw that the body of the Black Knight had been discovered.

Near the body of the Black Knight stood a very beautiful lady, the most beautiful that Sir Ivaine had ever seen except, of course, the beautiful Queen Guinevere. She was dark like the Queen and was tall. Ivaine felt that he wanted to stand and watch her for ever and ever.

But the little girl pulled at his hand and whispered, "You must hide quickly. The men know by this time that the man who killed their lord is in this castle. They are loyal to the Black Knight and will surely hang you if they find you."

Sir Ivaine quickly hid between the mattresses, while the little girl went down the stairs to get some food for him.

The men began searching every bit of the old castle. At last they came into the room

where Sir Ivaine lay hidden. One of them found his armor in the hiding place in the wall and said, "Here is his armor." But another man replied, "No, that is not the armor of the man we are looking for. That is some that was used at one time by our master. Don't bother to bring it out."

They hunted carefully in the room, looking under the bed but finding nothing. Just as they were about to leave the room one of the men dug his sword twice in the mattress. The second thrust cut Sir Ivaine's arm badly, but he was very brave and did not utter a sound.

When the men had gone, he crept from between the mattresses and found that his arm was bleeding badly. All Ivaine's other wounds that the Black Knight had given him had had no care and hurt him very much.

When the little girl returned with food for him and saw how badly he was wounded, she took a piece of linen, tore it into bandages and bathed and dressed his wounds. She said she would care for him until there was a chance for him to escape.

After the death of the Black Knight the peo-

ple said they would obey the mistress of the castle and do as she wished.

When the little girl heard this, she told Ivaine that now it was safe to tell the lady of the castle about him and that she would probably give him his freedom.

But Sir Ivaine did not want to go. He loved the lady very much. This pleased the little girl for she liked Sir Ivaine and thought he would be able to make her mistress happy.

When the lady heard about Sir Ivaine, she had him removed to a beautiful room and she saw a great deal of him.

Ivaine told her about his faithful lion that could be heard roaring outside the castle's walls and asked her if he might bring the lion into her castle. He told her at another time that he loved her and wished to marry her. She consented and they both were very happy. Sir Ivaine sent a messenger with a letter to King Arthur telling him the result of his adventure and asking for his forgiveness for the way in which he set off.

After a time a messenger came from King Arthur and Queen Guinevere bearing rich bridal gifts and the message of forgiveness.

He brought also an invitation to Ivaine and his bride to come to Camelot whenever they wished. You will read more about Sir Ivaine and his lady later.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Fill in the blank spaces with the words that complete the meaning of the sentences.

1. The Black Knight knew Sir Ivaine.
2. Sir Ivaine answered, "Victory shall go to the knight"
3. The Black Knight found out that Sir Ivaine was
4. The castle of the Black Knight was protected by a deep
5. The Black Knight did not own the but he had made his cousin, the owner of the castle, his
6. The little girl Sir Ivaine between the
7. One of the men wounded Sir Ivaine by his sword in the mattress.
8. Sir Ivaine was a knight and did not
9. Sir Ivaine wanted to bring his into the castle.
10. Sir Ivaine the beautiful of the castle.
11. A messenger went with a to King Arthur.
12. King Arthur sent his and rich gifts to Sir Ivaine and his lady.

Each of you have bad habits which you might call Black Knights. Draw as many Black Knights

as you think you ought to slay and name each the bad habit which he represents.

If you have had a King Arthur party and a successful King Arthur contest, pick out several groups who will plan and give scenes from the chapters of this book. The rest of the members of your club will tell from where the scenes are taken and give them a name.

Try to have the scenes so well planned and acted that some of them can be put on in assembly or for other classes to see and enjoy.

CHAPTER XVII

THE ADVENTURES OF SIR GERAINT

One day in the spring of the year while Arthur was holding his court at Caerleon, he announced a hunt for the following day.

Early the next morning there was heard the baying of the hounds and the stamping of the horses' hoofs as most of the knights got ready for the hunt.

Queen Guinevere had planned to go, but she overslept. By the time she had called her maidens it was late in the morning.

Then, making great haste, she dressed and chose a maiden to ride with her to a little hill in the forest where she thought the hunting party would be sure to pass.

As she waited, the brave and gallant knight Sir Geraint rode by. He was not dressed for the hunt, nor did he wear his armor. Instead he wore a short coat of white satin and around his waist he had a loose scarf of purple. In each

corner of the scarf was embroidered a golden apple.

After the Queen had greeted him, she asked,



From an old carving. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

THE KNIGHTS AND THEIR LADIES GO HUNTING.

"How is it that you are not hunting to-day?"

"My lady," answered he, "I am ashamed to say it, but I slept too late."

The Queen smiled at him and said, "We both have missed the hunt for the same reason.

I also slept too late, but I am waiting here, for very often they pass this way."

As they waited on this little hill there passed a knight dressed in armor, and with him was a lady. Riding behind them was a dwarf, ugly and evil-looking. They all three passed without a word or greeting to the Queen or to the Knight.

Guinevere asked Geraint if he knew the knight that had just passed, and Geraint answered, "I did not recognize the armor, and I could not see his face."

Guinevere then asked her attendant to go and ask the dwarf his master's name.

The maiden did as she was told, but when she asked the dwarf, he answered her in a surly and mumbling way, "I will not tell you his name."

"Since you are so hateful," said she, "I will ask your lord myself."

"You shall not," he cried and struck her across the face with his whip.

So the maiden, frightened and angry, rode back to the Queen and told her what had happened.

"Madam," cried Geraint, "this rascal has

hurt your maiden and insulted you. Let me go and do your errand for you.”

So he rode quickly away and soon came up to the three. He asked the dwarf the knight's name the same as the maiden had done, and the dwarf answered him the same way.

“I will speak to your master,” said Geraint.

“You shall not,” said the dwarf, “you are not good enough to speak to my lord.”

“I have spoken with many men of as good and better rank than he,” answered Geraint, and he started to ride forward to speak to the knight. But the dwarf struck his face such a blow with his whip that the blood spurted forth on his purple scarf.

In his anger Geraint drew forth his sword and would have killed the dwarf. But he had pity for the poor fellow and thought how really helpless and powerless he was. So he controlled himself and rode back to Queen Guinevere and said, “My lady, for a time this knight has escaped me. But with your permission I will ride after him and make him apologize for the wrong done to yourself and your maiden. I shall obtain armor on the way. Good-bye. You shall have news of me later.”



THE DWARF STRUCK SIR GERAINT.

The Queen bade him good-bye, telling him she would remember him for this service. She told him that when he fell in love with some beautiful lady, he was to bring her to the court and promised that, no matter how poor or rich the lady might be, she herself would clothe her for her marriage to Geraint in the most beautiful garments in the world.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Complete the following sentences in the way which you think is best.

1. Queen Guinevere intended to go to the hunt but
she did not feel well.
she overslept.
she had work to do.
2. When Sir Geraint joined the Queen on the little
knoll, in the forest, he was dressed
for the hunt.
in his suit of armor.
in a coat of white satin.
3. Sir Geraint did not attend the hunt because
he was not dressed to go.
he had other work to do.
he had slept too late.
4. As they waited for the hunt to pass
a wild deer ran by them.
a knight in armor, a lady, and a dwarf passed
by.
many hunters passed.
5. As they passed the Queen and Sir Geraint,
they smiled.
they bowed.
they gave no greeting.

6. The maiden asked the dwarf the knight's name,
and he
told her pleasantly.
was courteous and polite.
mumbled and said he would not tell.
7. When Geraint heard the maiden's story, he
very promptly offered to do the errand for the
Queen.
hesitated, not having on any armor.
said he would ride back to the castle and get his
armor.
8. Geraint questioned the dwarf and received
a different answer.
no answer.
the same answer.
9. When Sir Geraint was hit by the dwarf, he
easily killed him.
exercised great self-control.
knocked him down.
10. Queen Guinevere said she would give Geraint
much property when he returned.
much money.
a beautiful wedding dress for his bride.

Make out a chart something like the one you made for yourself that you think the knights you have been reading about could keep.

Which characters in this story do you dislike?
Why?

Have you any of the same qualities that the characters you dislike have?

Are you training to improve?

CHAPTER XVIII

SIR GERAINT AND THE SPARROW HAWK

So Geraint rode on his quest. He followed the road to the ford of the Usk River. He crossed the river and then traveled until he came to a town. At the farther end of this town was a mighty castle. It was very new, so new that the stone of which it was built was still very light in color.

On one side of this new castle was a very old castle that was fast falling into ruins. As he stood gazing at the castles, he saw the knight, lady, and dwarf enter the new one.

Geraint then knew that they lived there and that he must busy himself with buying arms. The next day he would call the knight to account.

The whole town seemed full of excitement. In every house men were busy polishing their shields, sharpening their swords, and cleaning their armor. They were so busy that they

hardly seemed to have time to answer questions.

At first Sir Geraint could not find any place to stay for the houses were all full. He asked an old servant who was cleaning his master's armor what all the excitement was about.

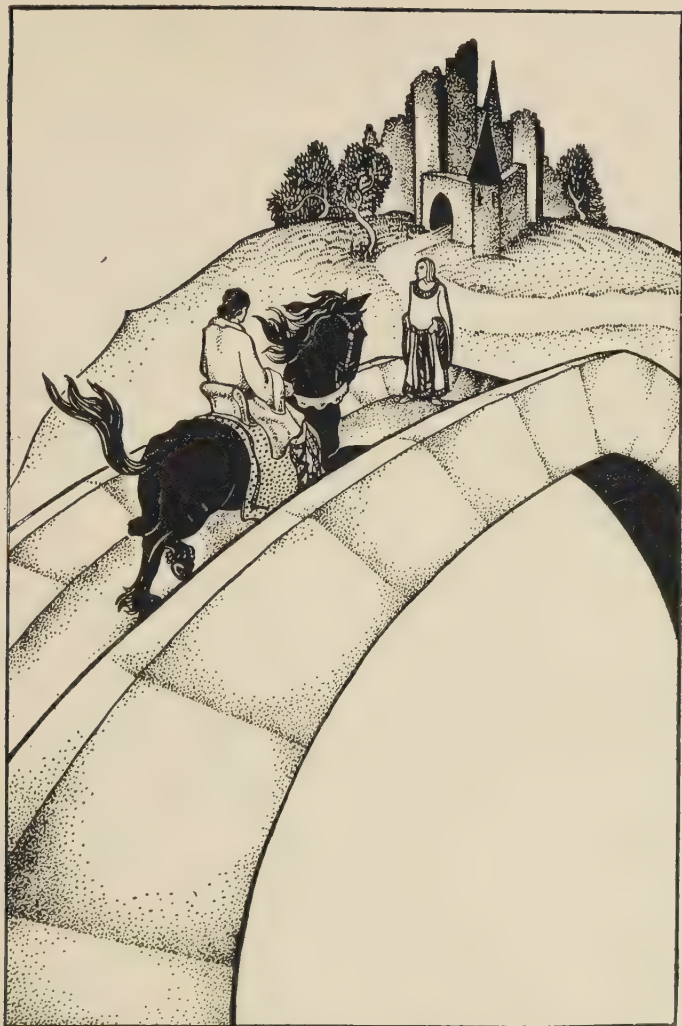
"The Sparrow-Hawk," the old man answered and kept right on working.

Then he met another old man carrying a sack of corn and asked him what was going to happen. The second old man made the same reply as the first one and hurried on.

Geraint then began to look for some one who made armor and sold it. After a time he saw an armorer who was busy at work and asked him the same question.

Without looking up from his work, the man answered, "Stranger, I am busy working for the Sparrow-Hawk and cannot answer questions."

By this time Sir Geraint had lost patience, and he said, "All I have heard is Sparrow-Hawk. I do not know what you mean. Can you not tell me where I can find a place to stay to-night, and will you make me some armor? See, all I have is my sword."



SIR GERAINT MEETS THE OLD EARL ON THE BRIDGE.

Then the man looked up and said, "We hold a tournament here to-morrow, and we have much work yet to do to-day. I cannot make you armor. I have no time, and we need all the armor we have. As for a place to stay, all the rooms are full, but perhaps Earl Iniol who lives in that old castle next to the fine one of the Sparrow-Hawk will take you in and make you comfortable."

Sir Geraint rode over to the old and ruined castle. He reached it by way of a marble bridge that was built over a deep valley. On the bridge stood an aged white-haired man dressed in old clothes that at one time had been very splendid. The old man gave Geraint a polite and kindly greeting.

"Sir," said Geraint, "can you please tell me where I can find shelter for the night?"

"Come with me," said the old man, "I am the Earl of Iniol. You can have the best that my old and ruined castle can give you."

He took Sir Geraint through the great stone courtyard and into the half-destroyed castle. Then they mounted the stairs and entered a room where sat an old lady and a very pretty maiden, in fact, the prettiest maiden that Ger-

aint had ever seen. She wore a faded old velvet gown, but Geraint thought her beautiful in it.

The old Earl introduced his wife and daughter and then said to his daughter, "Enid, this knight will stay with us for the night. His horse is in the courtyard. Take it to a stall and give it some food. Then go to the town and buy some food for us."

Geraint did not like to see the lady doing these things, and so he offered to accompany and help her.

The old Earl however wanted him to stay and said, "Sir, we are very poor, but we cannot permit our guest to do any work. Please stay here with us."

Enid took the horse to the stall. After that she went to the town, bought the food, and cooked it. When the meal was ready, she waited on her father, mother, and Sir Geraint.

Sir Geraint hated to see her do such work but loved her even more for the fact that she was willing to do it.

After a time Geraint asked why the castle was in such ruins.

"Sir Knight," said the old man, "I was once a rich Earl, but my nephew, whose guardian I

was, made war on me saying I had not given him all that he should have. He was joined by many wicked friends and defeated me, took my lands, and destroyed my castle as you can see for yourself. The townspeople like him because he holds tournaments and brings many people here."

"Why is all the excitement in the town now?" asked Geraint.

"To-morrow," said the Earl, "they hold the tournament of the Sparrow-Hawk. They call the tournament by that name because they set up in a field two forks, between which is placed a silver rod on which rests a gold figure of a sparrow-hawk. Whoever wins at the tournament is given the sparrow-hawk. My nephew has won it for two years and is now called the Sparrow-Hawk."

"To-morrow," said Sir Geraint, "I will fight with the Sparrow-Hawk and give you back your lands, for he is also the knight that was lacking in courtesy to our Queen Guinevere. But I must have some armor."

"I can give you armor but it is old and rusty," said the Earl. "Still, no one is allowed to fight in this tournament unless he loves some

lady the best in the world. Then if he wins and receives the prize, he gives it to this lady. Isn't there some lady you love?" asked the Earl.

Geraint answered, "I love your daughter Enid and will gladly make her my wife if she can love me."

The Earl was very pleased, and so was Enid for she was in love with the handsome knight.

The next morning all three went to the field where the tournament was to be held. The knights all looked very splendid in their shining armor and the ladies very lovely in their beautiful clothes. A herald blew a trumpet, and the Sparrow-Hawk galloped into the field.

He rode around the field three times and then rode up to where his lady was seated and said, "I give you the gold sparrow-hawk, this time to keep, because no one dares to fight with me."

Then Sir Geraint rode forward in his old and rusty armor and said, "I will fight with you."

The Sparrow-Hawk looked at Geraint and, feeling sure he could easily defeat him, replied, "All right."

They rushed at each other and fought hard and long. All the people watched in amazement for they could not tell which one was going to win.

Sir Geraint was very tired. But as he looked at Enid, sitting in her faded gown among the richly dressed ladies, he suddenly seemed to have great strength and struck the Sparrow-Hawk such a blow that he fell to the earth.

“Now, Sparrow-Hawk,” said Sir Geraint, “I have overthrown you. You must do two things. First, you must ride with your lady and your dwarf to King Arthur’s court and ask pardon of Queen Guinevere because your dwarf struck the queen’s maiden and you lacked courtesy. Second, you must restore all the riches you have taken from your good uncle the Earl Iniol.”

These two things the Sparrow-Hawk did. Afterwards in Arthur’s court he grew sorry for his wicked deeds and became a good and useful man.

Enid was very sorry she had no beautiful clothes to wear for her wedding. Her mother also was very sorry. When Geraint saw they were sad, he said that the Queen had promised

to dress his bride in the most beautiful clothes in the world. Then all became very happy.

The Archbishop of Canterbury married them amid great rejoicing of the court.

You will read more about Geraint and Enid later.'

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

Find on the map of England the Usk River. If you have a very large map, you may find the ford marked. Of course, you must find out what ford means, if you do not know. Where will you look to find out?

Here are some sentences that are true and some that are not. Number from 1 to 10 on your paper and write *Yes* if you think the sentence is true, and *No* if you think it is false.

1. Geraint knew that the knight, the lady, and the dwarf lived in the old castle.

2. The people were so busy that they could hardly answer Sir Geraint's questions.

3. Earl Iniol was dressed in splendid clothes.

4. Earl Iniol gave Geraint a polite and kindly greeting.

5. Earl Iniol had been so careless that his castle was in ruins.

6. Geraint liked to see Enid doing all the work.

7. Enid was anxious to help others and was doing work she did not like cheerfully.

8. The Sparrow-Hawk was a nephew of Earl Iniol and had taken away his uncle's property.

9. Sir Geraint rode forward in bright and shining armor to fight with the Sparrow-Hawk.

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10. Sir Geraint had to fight very hard to win.

11. The Sparrow-Hawk had to apologize to Queen Guinevere.

12. The Sparrow-Hawk refused, however, to give back his uncle's property.

13. Later in King Arthur's court he grew sorry for his wicked deeds and became a good man.

14. Enid had no beautiful dress for her wedding.

15. The Archbishop of Canterbury married Enid and Sir Geraint amid the great rejoicings of the court.

Which side won the King Arthur contest?

Do you see why the knights had to train for so many years?

Do you see why you should train? How are you training?

CHAPTER XIX

HOW SIR LANCELOT RESCUED THE QUEEN

When the first warm days of spring came, Queen Guinevere thought it would be nice to give a May party. So she invited ten ladies and ten knights to ride a-Maying with her.

All were dressed in green silk and green velvet. Why do you suppose they dressed this way? The knights wore white feathers in their caps, and the ladies wore white flowers in their hair.

Court duties kept the King from joining the party, but the Queen told him they would be back before late afternoon.

Now there was a wicked knight by the name of Sir Malgrace who wanted to capture the Queen and carry her off to his castle.

Such a good chance had never come before because all the knights of the Round Table loved their Queen and always rode with her to protect her.

When Sir Malgrace heard that the Queen had gone on a May party with only a few knights, and they not fully armed, he made his plans to capture her. He called together eighty of his knights and one hundred archers. With all these he set out to capture the members of the May party.

The Queen and her friends were having a fine time in the woods. They were sitting on a little knoll and had decorated themselves with leaves and flowers. They had made wreaths and had hung them on their arms, heads, and around their necks.

Suddenly they were surrounded by the eighty knights and all the archers.

The Queen jumped to her feet and recognized the wicked knight. She cried, "What are you trying to do?"

"I am going to make you my prisoner," said Sir Malgrace, "and always keep you in my castle."

"I will not go with you!" cried the Queen.

Then the knights tried to protect their Queen and attacked the one hundred and eighty men. They were able to overthrow forty of them, but in doing this all were wounded. The Queen,

seeing this, grew very sad and said, "Oh, Sir Malgrace, I will go with you if you promise not to kill my faithful knights. I would rather die than have them further hurt."

Sir Malgrace did not wish to kill the knights. He only wanted the Queen.

The knights did not wish to give up fighting for their Queen, but they were forced on Sir Malgrace's horses, and all were taken as prisoners to his castle.

Sir Malgrace rode along beside the Queen and watched her every movement. He was afraid that she might escape some way. When they were riding through a thick part of the woods, he rode ahead to bend back the branches so that they would not strike her in the face.

Then the Queen whispered to a little maiden who rode near her, "Try to escape. You are so small they will not notice you. Ride to Sir Lancelot and tell him what has happened. He will find some way to rescue us."

The little girl waited for some time, and then quietly and quickly she started off.

Sir Malgrace saw her go and knew she had gone for help. He ordered the archers to shoot at her, but she managed to escape unhurt.

Now Sir Malgrace was very angry and said to the Queen, "You have sent for Sir Lancelot, but he will never dare to come here. If he does, we will shoot him down."

He told his archers to shoot down any knight they saw, adding that, if it were Sir Lancelot, they had better not go too near him for he was a very cunning and mighty fighter.

The little maiden reached Arthur's court in safety. She found the King and the other knights very anxious. When she gave the Queen's message to Sir Lancelot, he said, "I will rescue my good and beautiful Queen this very night."

Many of the knights and the King wanted to go with him, but he replied that it would be wiser and safer for him to go alone.

The little maiden guided him to the place where they all had been captured. Then, by the blood on the grass and on the road, he was able to reach the archers who were riding between Sir Malgrace's knights and the prisoners.

The archers saw him coming. With their arrows they wounded him and killed his white horse. Then they rode hastily forward to tell

Sir Malgrace that a knight whom they had failed to kill was coming to the castle.

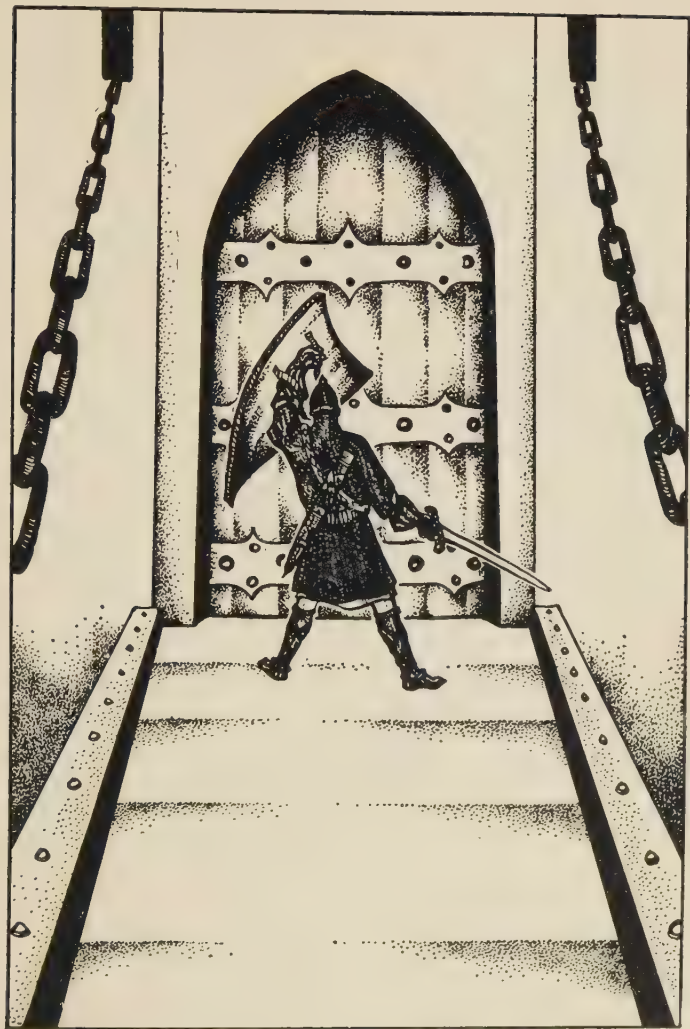
Sir Lancelot could not walk very fast in his heavy armor, and he could not take it off for he needed it to protect him. He was wondering what to do when he saw a countryman driving a rough cart. "Fellow," said Sir Lancelot, "let me ride in your cart to the castle of Sir Malgrace."

The farmer was surprised to find a knight asking him for a ride because knights only rode in a cart when they had done some very wicked thing and had to die as punishment for it.

Sir Lancelot, however, did not wait to explain. He jumped into the cart and told the man to drive quickly.

The prisoners had all been taken to the castle, and some of the ladies were looking out of the window when they saw Lancelot riding in the cart. They told the Queen to look at the knight who was going to be hung.

Looking out of the window the Queen saw a shield that she knew very well. It had three lions on it and was the shield of Lancelot. She was very delighted and waved to him as he rode up to the castle gate.



SIR LANCELOT BEAT ON THE GATE WITH HIS SHIELD.

Sir Lancelot beat on the gate with his shield and cried, "Sir Malgrace, wicked knight, come out and fight, or you will be marked forever as a coward."

Sir Malgrace heard him, and great was his fear. He did not want to be known as a coward, and yet he was too afraid of Sir Lancelot to fight him.

He went to the Queen and said, "Remember how I saved your ten knights when you asked me. I am sorry I took you a prisoner. Will you now go to Sir Lancelot and ask him not to fight? I will entertain you all in this castle to-night, and you shall go free to-morrow."

The Queen said, "I will do the best I can for you, if you are truly sorry." And she went down to ask Sir Lancelot not to fight.

Sir Lancelot thought Sir Malgrace very wicked and wanted to fight him, but the Queen begged him to give him another chance. Sir Lancelot then agreed and quietly entered the castle.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

On one side of this page you will find some questions and on the other side you will find the answers.

On a separate sheet of paper match the questions with the answers.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Why did the Queen want to give a May party? | Court duties kept the King at home. |
| 2. How did the knights and ladies dress for the party? | "Try and escape. You are so small that they will not notice you. Ride to Sir Lancelot and tell him what has happened. He will find some way to rescue us." |
| 3. What did the knights wear in their caps and what did the ladies wear in their hair? | He thought it would be wiser and safer for all. |
| 4. How many knights and archers did Sir Malgrace take to capture the Queen? | They dressed in green silk and green velvet. |
| 5. How many men were the King's knights able to overthrow? | She loved the beauty of spring. |

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6. What did the Queen whisper to the little maiden? | The knights wore white feathers in their caps and the ladies white flowers in their hair. |
| 7. Why did the King not go to the party with them? | They wounded him and killed his white horse. |
| 8. Why did Sir Lancelot want to go alone to rescue the Queen? | He took eighty knights and one hundred archers. |
| 9. What did the archers do to Sir Lancelot when they saw him coming? | He was guided by the blood stains on the grass and road. |
| 10. What guided Sir Lancelot after the little maiden left him? | They were able to overthrow forty. |
| 11. How did Sir Lancelot get to the castle of Sir Malgrace? | He went to the Queen and told her to ask Sir Lancelot not to fight and that he would free them all. |
| 12. When did the knights ride in carts? | She waved to him. |
| 13. What did the Queen do when she saw Sir Lancelot in the cart? | He beat on the gate with his shield and called Sir Malgrace to come out and fight him. |
| 14. What did Sir Lancelot do when he arrived at the castle? | He rode up to the gate in a cart. |
| 15. What did Sir Malgrace do when he knew Sir Lancelot had succeeded in reaching the gate of his castle? | When they had done some wicked deed and were going to die as punishment for it. |

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This chapter can easily be dramatized. You should be able to write your own play and a good one.

Boys and girls who like to draw and paint can find many scenes to paint.

Boys and girls who like to make verses will find this chapter interesting.

You should have your King Arthur book nearly completed. Don't forget to keep your costumes. You will need them later.

CHAPTER XX

SIR LANCELOT AND SIR MALGRACE

Sir Malgrace gave all the ladies, the knights, the Queen, and Sir Lancelot a very great feast that evening. In the midst of the banquet the evil of the man again began to show, for he accused the Queen of being wicked and not loyal to the King.

All the people were amazed and angry, and Lancelot cried, "You shall surely fight with me now. I let you off once, but never again, you coward."

"I am not a coward," replied Sir Malgrace.

"When and where will you fight with me then?" asked Sir Lancelot.

"In eight days," said Sir Malgrace, "in a field near Westminster."

"That suits me," said Sir Lancelot.

After this quarrel all the knights and ladies refused to stay in the castle any longer and went into the courtyard to mount their horses.

Sir Lancelot saw that all of the party were able to get out of the house safely. Then, just as he was about to go, the floor near the door on which he had stepped opened and dropped him into a dark dungeon.

After the party had safely left the castle and its courtyard, they missed Sir Lancelot, but they thought he had other business to attend to and had gone off by himself as he often did.

The party rode on to Camelot without him.

On their arrival they told the King all that had happened. He was very angry at Sir Malgrace, but he knew Sir Lancelot would punish him.

Sir Lancelot, however, was lying badly bruised in the dungeon wondering how he could escape. He knew Sir Malgrace intended to keep him there until he starved to death.

For two days and nights Sir Lancelot lay in the dark dungeon with nothing to eat or drink. However, he did not lose courage but hoped to make his escape in some way or other.

On the third day Sir Malgrace opened the door to see if he were dead. Lancelot saw him and sprang forward. "You coward, I am not dead yet, and I shall punish you, wait and see."



SIR MALGRACE OPENED THE DOOR TO SEE IF LANCELOT
WERE DEAD.

Sir Malgrace jumped back and hurriedly closed the door.

Now it happened that a little girl, the daughter of one of the servants, saw him open and close the door. She was very curious and wondered who could be shut up in that dark dungeon. She made up her mind to find out who it was.

That night she opened the trap door and looked down. Then she called softly, "Who is down there?"

Lancelot told her who he was. She had heard about him and felt very sorry for him. Also she had seen the beautiful Queen Guinevere and knew that he had come to rescue her.

Lancelot offered the little girl much money if she would help him escape, but she said, "I do not care anything about the money, but I think you should go free because you have done no harm."

She let down a rope and, though Lancelot was very weak, he managed to haul himself up out of the dungeon.

He escaped from the castle and went to a hermit's hut where he was fed and given good

care for a few days. He quickly recovered his strength, for rest and food were all he needed.

After a day or two Sir Malgrace looked into the dungeon again. This time he could neither



THE HERALD ANNOUNCES THE EVENTS.

see nor hear anything. Then he was very happy, for he thought Sir Lancelot must be dead.

The day for the fight between Sir Lancelot and Sir Malgrace came. All the knights of the Round Table went to the field and waited for Sir Lancelot. They knew he would be there.

Sir Malgrace, very richly dressed and with great pleasure rode around the field before Sir Lancelot appeared. The knights were greatly surprised at his daring for they did not know what had happened.

At all tournaments the herald announces the events.

The herald stepped forward and blew his trumpet once. That was the signal for both knights to appear. But Lancelot did not come. The herald waited for a minute or two, then blew his trumpet twice. Still no sign of Sir Lancelot. Several knights now went over to the King and said, "Choose one of us to fight for something dreadful must have happened to Lancelot or he would surely be here."

The King did not know which knight to choose. While he was thinking and before he could decide, into the field rode Sir Lancelot.

"Here I am," he cried to Sir Malgrace, "though you thought me dead."

Then they started to fight and in a few seconds Sir Lancelot bore Sir Malgrace to the ground. He cried for mercy and said, "I yield to you, Sir Lancelot. Do not kill me."

Sir Lancelot was very angry. He knew Sir

Malgrace should die because he was such a wicked knight, but since he had asked for mercy, he could not kill him. A knight must give mercy if asked to do so. He cried in anger, "What, would you stop fighting so soon and ask for mercy? Shame on you. Get up and try again."

"I will not get up and fight again," said the cowardly knight. "I have yielded to you, and you must give me mercy."

Sir Lancelot thought for a minute and said, "You are such a coward I will tell you what I will do. I will take off my helmet. I will let you tie my left hand behind my back and take the armor from my left side. I will fight you that way."

Sir Malgrace jumped to his feet, feeling sure he could kill Sir Lancelot. "King Arthur," he said, "you have heard what has been said. I accept his offer."

The King and all the knights of the Round Table were very sorry that Sir Lancelot had offered Sir Malgrace to fight with him in that way.

As Sir Lancelot had only one arm free, he could not even use his shield to protect him-

self. However, there was nothing to be done. They must fight that way.

Sir Malgrace rushed at Sir Lancelot aiming for his left side. Sir Lancelot allowed him to come very close, then quickly dodged him, and before he could turn to strike again at Lancelot, Lancelot himself had struck his enemy such a blow that it killed him.

Then was Sir Lancelot greatly honored by the King and Queen because, though strong and brave, he always fought fairly for the right.

KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

See if you can score perfect on these sentences.
Complete them in the way which you think is best.

1. Sir Malgrace told Sir Lancelot that he would
fight him
at once.
in eight days in a field near Westminster.
soon as he was not a coward.
2. Sir Lancelot did not leave the house with the
others because he wanted
to ride away by himself.
to have a few words alone with Sir Malgrace.
to see that all got out safely.
3. Sir Lancelot, lying in the dungeon, knew that
Sir Malgrace planned to starve him to death.
it was an accident and he would soon be rescued.
he would be rescued by a little girl.
4. He lay in the dungeon for
three whole days.
three days and two nights.
two days and one night.
5. Lancelot
was ready and waiting for any chance to escape.
had given up hope of escaping.
was sure he was going to escape.

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6. The little girl helped Lancelot to escape because
 she wanted the money.
 she hated Sir Malgrace.
 she knew Lancelot had done no wrong.
7. Sir Malgrace rode very happily around the field
 because
 he thought Sir Lancelot was dead.
 he thought he looked very nice.
 he was a brave man.
8. Sir Lancelot had to give mercy when asked be-
 cause
 that was a rule of knighthood.
 Sir Malgrace was dying.
 he had unhorsed Sir Malgrace.
9. Sir Malgrace was sure he could kill Lancelot be-
 cause
 Lancelot could only use one arm.
 he could use both arms and his shield.
 he was no longer afraid.
10. The King and Queen gave honor to Sir Lancelot
 because
 he was such a good fighter.
 he always fought fairly for the right.
 he killed Sir Malgrace.

On a separate sheet of paper complete this chart showing how much work you have done while reading this book.

Name..... Date.....

School.....

I have read.....chapters of this book.

I have read..... pages in other books
about King Arthur and his Knights.

I have taken part in.....contests about
King Arthur and the Round Table.

I have drawn.....pictures of King Ar-
thur and his knights.

I have written.....stories and.....
poems about King Arthur.

.....chapters helped me in marking my
charts.

The work I did to help make the King Arthur
party a success was.....

I made a,, and——
parts of armor for my King Arthur cos-
tume.

I am able to tell.....stories of King Ar-
thur from reading this book.

LITTLE DICTIONARY

Key to Pronunciation

ā as in āle
â as in câre
ă as in ăm
ǎ as in ărm
ē as in ēve
ě as in ěnd
ẽ as in makẽr
ī as in īce
ĩ as in ĩll

ō as in ōld
ô as in ôrb
ǒ as in ǒdd
ū as in ūse
û as in ûrn
ǔ as in ǔp
ōō as in fōōd
ōō as in fōōt
ou as in out

oi as in oil

LITTLE DICTIONARY

[The marks of pronunciation are based on Webster. In the case of each name for which no absolute authority has been found, what is thought to be the correct pronunciation has been given.]

accompanied (ă-kŭm'pă-nĭd): to go along with.

advice (ăd-vĭs'): opinion; judgment; wisdom.

announce (ă-nouns'): to make known.

Archbishop (ărch'bĭsh'ŭp): a chief bishop. (See Canterbury.)

archer (ărch'chĕr): one skilled in the use of the bow and arrow.

armor (ăr'mĕr): a covering worn to protect a person in battle.

armor, scale (skāl): armor made of small metallic scales overlapping, and fastened upon leather or cloth.

Arthur, King: a king of Britain who became the central figure of a great cycle of romance. He was said to have lived in state with his wife, Guinevere, at Caerleon on the Usk River.

assembly (ă-sĕm'blĭ): a number of persons coming together.

athletic (ăth-lĕt'ĭk): pertaining to games and sports.

authority (ô-thŏr'ĭ-tĭ): the right to command or to act.

Balan, Sir (bā'lăn): in Arthurian legend a brother of Sir Balin.

He killed his brother by mistake in a fight. The story is told in Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*, and in a different way in Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*.

Balin, Sir (bā'lin): in Arthurian legend a brother of Sir Balan.

He killed his brother by mistake in a fight. The story is told in Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*, and in a different way in Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*.

baron (băr'ŭn): a nobleman of the lowest grade.

Bedivere, Sir (bĕd'ĭ-vĕr): in Arthurian legend, a knight (Tennyson calls him the "first made and latest left of all the knights") of the Round Table.

Bellicent, Queen (běl'li-cěnt): the half-sister of King Arthur and the mother of Gareth, Gawain, and Modred.

bodyguard (bōd'ī-gārd'): a number of persons whose duty it is to defend or protect a person.

borough (būr'ō): a group of houses forming a town or district.

Brastias, Sir (brās'tī-ās): a knight of the Round Table.

breastplate (brěst'plāt'): a plate of metal covering the breast, used for protection.

Britain (brīt'n): England, Scotland, and Wales.

bronze (brōnz): a yellowish or reddish brown mixture of copper and tin.

Caerleon (kār-lē'ōn): a town in England on the Usk river.

Camelot (kām'ě-lōt): in the Arthurian legends the place where King Arthur had his palace and court and where the Round Table was. It has been said to be both at or near Winchester and in Wales.

Canterbury (kăn'těr-běr-ī): a city in England. It is the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of all the Anglican churches in England.

Cardiff (kār'dif): a city in Wales.

cathedral (kā-thē'drāl): the bishop's church or the head church of a diocese or district.

century (sěn'tū-rī): a period of one hundred years.

ceremony (sěr'ě-mō-nī): a formal act or a number of acts used in the carrying out of important matters.

code (kōd): a system of rules to guide conduct.

committee (kō-mīt'ē): a body of persons appointed to report upon some matter of business.

complain (kōm-plān'): to find fault with.

compose (kōm-pōz'): to form by putting together two or more things; to be made up of.

conquer (kōn'kēr): to gain by force; to win.

coöperation (kō-öp'ěr-ā'shūn): to work or act together.

Cornwall (kōrn'wōl): a county in Southwest England.

courteous (kûr'tē-ūs): obliging; well-bred; polite.

courtyard (kōrt'yārd'): an open space inclosed by buildings.
cowardly (kou'ērd-lī): weakly, timid or fearful.

damsel (dām'zēl): a young girl.

daring (dâr'ing): to have courage for.

decorate (dēk'ō-rāt): to make beautiful.

descendant (dē-sēn'-dānt): one of a family line having common ancestry. We are all descendants of our parents and grandparents.

diocese (dī'ō-sēs): the district in which a bishop has church power or authority.

discuss (dīs-kūs'): to examine in detail; to reason by presenting facts in favor of and against.

disguise (dīs-gīz'): to change the appearance so as to mislead.

doublet (düb'lēt): a close-fitting garment for men, with or without sleeves, covering the body from the neck to the waist, or a little below.

dragon (dräg'ūn): a huge serpent. In English myths the dragon is used to refer to a monster with a griffin's head, a scaly, winged body with four legs, with claws, and a barbed tail and tongue.

dramatize (drām'ä-tiz): to tell in the form of a play.

drawbridge (drô'brij'): a bridge of which either the whole or a part is made to be raised up, let down, or drawn, or turned aside, to admit or keep out visitors from a castle or town.

dungeon (dүн'jүн): a close, dark prison underground.

ebony (ēb'ūn-ī): a hard, heavy, and strong wood. It is sometimes black in color and can be easily polished.

Ector, Sir (ēk'tōr): a knight of King Arthur's Round Table and father of Sir Kay.

Elizabeth of Liones: mother of Sir Tristram, a knight of King Arthur's Round Table.

embroider (ēm-broid'ēr): to make a pattern or design with the needle and thread.

emerald (ěm'ěr-ăld): a clear deep-green stone used as a gem.

enchantress (ěn-chăn'trěs): a female who uses power gained from the control of evil spirits; a user of black magic; witchcraft.

Enid (ē'níd): in Arthurian legend the faithful and patient wife of Geraint. Her story is told in the *Mabinogion* and in Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*.

enthusiasm (ěn-thū'zĩ-ăz'm): eagerness.

esquire (ěs-kwĩr'): a shield bearer; armor bearer; the squire of a knight. An esquire trains for knighthood.

establish (ěs-tăb'lĩsh): to set up or secure firmly.

Evraue, Earl (ěv'ră): one legend tells that he is the father of Sir Perceval or Sir Peredur.

Excalibur (ěks-kăł'ĩ-bŭr): the name of, apparently, two famous swords of King Arthur. One he unfixed from the stone after all others who tried had failed. The other he received from the Lady of the Lake's hand when it appeared above the surface of the water holding the sword.

falcon (fô'k'n): a hawk trained for use in hunting.

favor (fă'vēr): a gift or present; something worn as a sign of affection or loyalty.

foresight (fôr'sīt'): the ability to look forward.

Gaheris, Sir (gă'hěr-ĩs): in Arthurian legend a knight of the Round Table, brother of Sir Gawain and Sir Gareth.

Galahad, Sir (găł'ă-hăd): in Arthurian legend the knight of the Round Table who was successful in the quest of the Holy Grail.

Gareth, Sir (gâr'ěth): in Arthurian legend a knight of the Round Table, a nephew of King Arthur, who worked at first as a kitchen boy in his uncle's kitchen.

Gawain, Sir (gô'wăn): in Arthurian legend a nephew of the king and a famous knight of the Round Table.

generosity (jěn'ěr-ös'ĩ-tĩ): an act of fine quality; something not mean and close but noble and unselfish.

George, Saint: he is usually pictured clad in armor riding a white horse and stabbing a monster as it turns to flee.

Geraint, Sir (gě-rānt'): a knight of the Round Table whose story is told in the *Mabinogion* and in Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*. He defeated the Sparrowhawk and married Enid.

Grail, Holy (grāl): the cup or chalice used by Jesus at the Last Supper.

grating (grāt'ing): a covering; or frame with crossbars.

Griffin (grif'in): in English myths a monster half lion and half eagle.

Guinevere, Queen (gwīn'ě-vēr): Queen to King Arthur.

hack (hăk): to make rough cuts or notches.

hauberk (hō'bērkc): a coat of mail.

helmet (hěl'mět): a protective covering for the head.

herald (hěr'ăld): one who announces the events; a messenger.

hermit (hūr'mīt): a person who retires from society and lives alone.

hero (hē'rō): a person who shows great bravery in danger or great patience in suffering.

hilt (hīlt): the handle of a sword or dagger.

homage (hōm'ăj): respect; honor.

hoop (hōōp): strip of wood or metal bent in a circular form and joined at the ends.

implement (īm'plē-měnt): a tool or instrument.

independence ((īn'dē-pěn'děns): freedom; the ability to direct one's affairs.

industry (īn'dūs-trī): skill; cleverness; steady attention to business.

influence (īn'flōō-ěns): the power of producing a desired effect.

Iniol, Earl (īn'ī-ōl): the father of Enid, wife of Sir Geraint.

Ivaine, Sir (īv'ān): a knight of the Round Table.

ivory (ī'vō-rī): a hard creamy-white, fine-grained substance that forms the tusks of elephants.

Joseph (jō'zěf) of **Arimathea** (ăr'ĩ mā-thē'ä): a rich man who took the body of Jesus and placed it in his tomb.

joust (jüst): knights are said to joust when they try to unhorse each other in a tournament.

justice (jüs'tis): fairness; rightfulness; truth.

Kay, Sir (kā): a rude, boastful, and thoughtless knight of the Round Table.

Knights of the Round Table: they belong to the Order of King Arthur. The name comes from the round table at which they sat.

Lady of the Lake: in Arthurian legend she gives the sword, Excalibur, to King Arthur.

lance (läns): a war tool or weapon about sixteen feet long with a very sharp steel head.

Lancelot, Sir (lä'n'sě-löt): the most famous knight of King Arthur's Round Table. He was very generous and brave and was brought up by the Lady of the Lake.

league (lēg): an agreement of people to help one another.

Leodogran, King (lē-öd'ō-grän): the father of Queen Guinevere.

Lionel (lī'ō-něl): Sir Lancelot's nephew.

Liones or Lyonesse (lī'ō-nēs'): in Arthurian legend a country said to have been formerly bordering on Cornwall but to have long since disappeared and now to be more than forty fathoms under water. (A fathom is about 6 ft.)

loyal (loi'äl): faithful and true.

Mabinogion, The (mäb'ĩ-nō'gĩ-ön): the title given by Lady Charlotte Guest to a collection of Welsh stories published by her. It includes Welsh versions of some of the French Arthurian romances of Chrétien de Troyes.

magician (mä-jish'än): one skilled in magic; one who practices the black art; an enchanter.

magnificent (mäg-nĩ'ĩ-sěnt): great in deed; brilliant; imposing.

mail, chain (māl): an armor made of interlinked metal rings.

mail, plate: a broad piece of metal used to reinforce and complete chain mail armor. Later it was used in place of chain mail.

Malgrace, Sir (măl'grăce): in Arthurian legend a wicked knight who tried to kidnap Queen Guinevere. He was finally punished by Sir Lancelot.

meet (mēt): the act of meeting or assembling for athletic sports.

Meliadus, King (mě-lī'ă-dūs): in Arthurian legend a king of Lyonesse and knight of the Round Table, father of Sir Tristram.

Merlin (mûr'lîn): in Arthurian legends a famous prophet and magician.

mesh (měsh): one of the openings or spaces inclosed by the threads of a net between knot and knot; one of the spaces in any network.

Michael, Saint (mī'kěl): a saint usually pictured wearing coat-armor, with a halo round his head and a dart in his hand. He is trampling on the fallen Lucifer (Satan).

mistress (mīs'trēs): a woman having power, authority, or ownership.

moat (mōt): a deep and wide trench around the wall of a castle usually filled with water.

Modred, Sir (mō'drēd): in Arthurian legend a knight of the Round Table, the rebellious nephew of King Arthur. He was finally slain in battle.

mythology (mī-thōl'ō-jī): a collection of stories or myths the beginnings of which are forgotten. These myths generally describe the gods of a people.

noble (nō'b'l): a person of high rank or birth.

nunnery (nūn'ēr-ī): a house or building in which a number of nuns live.

obedience (ō-bē'dī-ēns): act or fact of obeying; a willingness to give ear to.

Owain, Sir (ō'wāne): a Welsh prince and knight of the Round Table.

page (pāj): a youth undergoing training for knighthood.

He waits upon his master and mistress and after seven or eight years of training he becomes an esquire.

painstaking (pānz'tāk'ing): careful in doing.

Perceval, Sir (pûr'si-vāl): a knight of King Arthur's Round Table. (There are many legends and versions of Sir Perceval.)

permission (pēr-mîsh'ûn): leave to do something; consent.

Phelot, Sir (phē'lôt): a wicked knight who tried to kill Sir Lancelot.

pierce (pērs): to bore through.

plea (plē): the presenting of a cause to the court.

plume (plōm): a long, handsome feather.

portcullis (pōrt-kûl'is): a grating of iron, or of heavy timbers pointed with iron, hung in or over the gateway of a fortress or castle, and usually running in grooves, to be let down to prevent entrance.

precious (prēsh'ûs): of great price or value; costly.

problem (prōb'lēm): a question needing solution; a matter needing proof; a doubtful case or question.

promptness (prōmpt'nēs): readiness and quickness; without delay.

prophecy (prōf'ē-si): a foretelling of something; the telling of something that is going to happen in the future.

prosperity (prōs-pēr'ī-ti): success; well-being; advance or gain in anything good.

rejoicing (rē-jois-ing): gladness; an expression of joy.

request (rē-kwēst'): to ask for something; to ask for permission to do, see, hear something.

rescue (rēs'kū): to set free.

responsibility (rē-spōn'si-bil'ī-ti): that for which one is trusted.

restore (rē-stōr'): to give back something that has been lost or taken away; to make good the loss or damage due.

reverence (rēv'ēr-ēns): honor or respect for position or relationship.

Round Table: a huge circular marble table at which King Arthur and his knights used to sit. The number of persons who could sit around it is variously given as from thirteen to one hundred and fifty.

scabbard (skāb'ārd): the case or covering in which the blade of a sword, dagger, or other cutting weapon, is inclosed when not in use.

scold (skōld): to find fault.

scorn (skōrn): to mock; to dishonor.

sculpture (skūlp'tūr): the act or art of carving, cutting, or hewing wood, stone, metal, etc., into figures.

self-control (sēlf'-kōn-trōl'): self-command; power to curb one's self.

self-reliance (sēlf'-rē-lī'āns): the ability to trust in one's self; trust in your own judgment.

service (sūr'vīs): the doing of work to assist another.

shield (shēld): a broad piece of armor made up of a plate or frame as of metal, wood, or leather and carried on the arm or held in the hand by a handle. It is used for protection of the body in battle.

Siege Perilous (sēj pēr'ī-lūs): the seat of danger at King Arthur's Round Table, the seat of the knight who would be successful in the quest of the Holy Grail. Any other knight who sat in it would die; Sir Galahad's seat at the Round Table.

Sire (sīr): a lord; master; a title of respect.

spear (spēr): a war tool or weapon with a long handle and a sharp head or blade. Used in war by thrusting or throwing.

sportsmanship (spōrts'mān-shīp): fairness and kindness in sports shows a "good loser and a graceful winner."

spur (spûr): a pointed tool fastened to the heel, or above the

heel of a knight to urge his horse by its pressure. Spurs were a badge of knighthood.

stake (stāk): a post; the support to which a person is bound when put to death by burning.

sword (sōrd): a war tool having a long and usually sharp-pointed blade with a cutting edge or edges.

sympathy (sīm'pā-thī): tenderness; a feeling of sorrow for the sorrow of others; fellow-feeling.

tapestry (tăp'ēs-trī): a linen cloth used for wall hangings with a worked design. The design is usually a picture.

thrift (thrift): savings; economy.

tilt (tīlt): to overturn; to topple.

Tintagel Castle (tīn-tăj'ěl): a castle, now ruined, on Tintagel Head on the coast of Cornwall, connected with the Arthurian legends.

topaz (tō'păz): a kind of precious stone. Its usual color is yellow but it varies from canary to deep orange. Some kinds are white, greenish, bluish. Some become pink or red on heating.

tournament (tōor'nă-měnt): a knightly sport in which mounted, armored knights, armed usually with blunted lances or swords, displayed their skill and courage to win a prize or favor to give to the "queen of beauty" or the lady of the tournament chosen for the occasion.

trappings (trăp'īngz): decorations for a horse.

Tristram, Sir (trīs'trăm): in Arthurian legend one of the knights of King Arthur's Round Table.

Turquaine, Sir (tūr'quān): a wicked knight who hated Sir Lancelot.

Ulfius, Sir (ŭl'fī-ŭs): a knight of the Round Table.

unlawful (ŭn-lō'fōol): not according to law; disregard of the law.

unselfishness (ŭn'sěl'fīsh-nēs): not thinking of one's self; thinking of others.

Usk River (ŭsk): a river in south Wales and England, about sixty miles long.

Uther Pendragon (ū'thēr pěn-drăg'ŭn): in Arthurian legend father of King Arthur.

visor (vĭz'ēr): the front piece of a helmet arranged so as to lift or open and so show the face.

vow (vou): a solemn promise.

Wales (wālz): a part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. It is bounded by the Irish Sea on the north, England on the east, Bristol Channel on the south, and St. George's Channel on the west.

weapon (wĕp'ŭn): something to fight with.

Westminster (wĕst'mĭn'stēr): a borough or district of London.

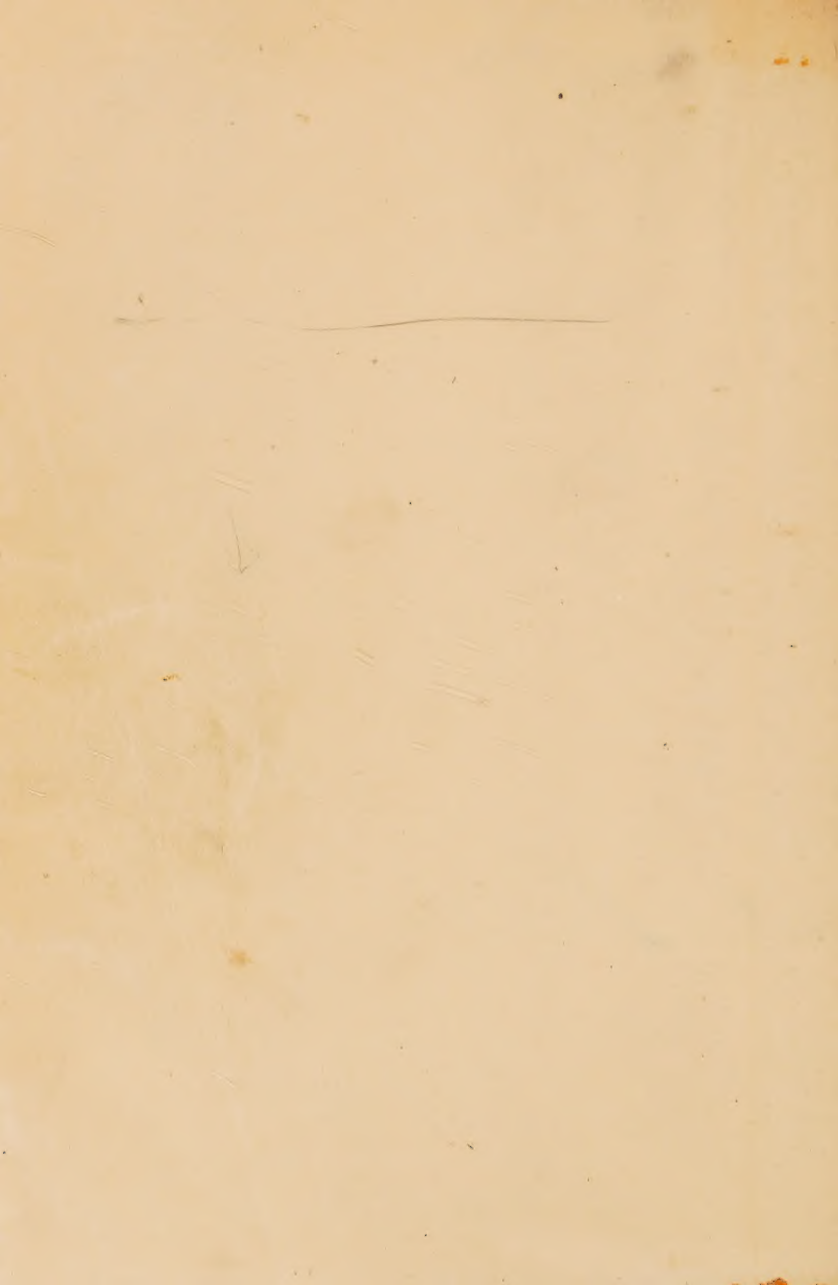
Winchester (wĭn'chĕs-tēr): a city in Hampshire, England, eleven miles northeast of Southampton.

wisdom (wĭz'dŭm): the quality of being wise.

wrestle (rĕs'l): a match between two people. Each tries to throw the other down.

zeal (zĕl): eagerness in favor of a person or cause.





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